THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, Fifth avenue and Smithfield street, opposite Postoffice.

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ TERMS OF THE DAILY: Single copy, 3 cents; delivered by carriers (per week) 15 cents; subscribers by mail (per year), $10 00, postage pre-paid.

☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

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TERMS OF THE WEEKLY: Per Year, (52 issues), $1 75, in Clubs of Twenty and over, $1 25, postage pre-paid on one copy given to the getter up of the Club. The money must always accompany the Order, and in no instance can these terms be deviated from.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XII. PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 17, 1875. NO. 333.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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FIRST EDITION.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Ohio River Improvement Bill Passed First Reading.

MINORITY REPORT ON THE RINGGOLD CASE.

Pipe Line Bill to Come Up To-day.

Large Number of Bills Passed First and Second Reading.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 16, 1875.

The following passed second reading:

An act authorizing the town council in incorporated boroughs to vacate streets, lanes and alleys, subject to appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions.

An act to authorize the judges of the several courts throughout the Commonwealth to fix the number of regular terms of said several courts, and the times for holding the same, the time for summoning the Grand Jury and for the return of constables, aldermen and justices of the peace to the same.

An act to validate certain conveyances made by married women.

An act to provide for the erecting of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on the public roads of this Commonwealth.

An act to reimburse A. H. Waters, Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphan School at Uniontown, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, for clothing and funeral expenses of soldiers' orphans.

A supplement to an act, entitled An act relative to courts in this Commonwealth, approved May 4, A. D. 1852.

An act to correct an error in designating the Judicial district composed of the counties of Wyoming and Sullivan, and fixing a correct number to the same.

An act relating to the official acts of foreign notaries public.

An act declaratory of the intent and meaning of the fourth section of An act to repeal an act to lay out and make a State road in Clearfield county, and to regulate the application of taxes on the lands therein named, approved April 16, A. D. 1873.

An act to regulate the practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

An act relating to venue in civil causes.

Joint resolution providing for the printing of the report of the Auditor General on railroads.

Joint resolution authorizing the Clerk of the Senate to procure three copies of Purdon's Digest for the use of each Senator, amended so as to give one copy to each Senator and clerk.

A supplement to an act for the abandonment and discontinuance of the use and possession of the State powder magazine in the city of Philadelphia, and authorizing and empowering the sale of the property purchased for the erection of another magazine, approved April 29, A. D. 1874.

An act declaratory of the true intent of section sixty-six of the act to consolidate, revise and amend the penal laws of this Commonwealth, approved May 31, A. D. 1860.

An act enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sales of real estate encumbered by liens.

An act to provide for the refunding and redemption of the existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts or other municipalities or incorporated district evidenced by bonds or certificates issued prior to the 20th day of April, A. D. 1874.

The following passed first reading:

Forbidding the pollution of streams, lakes and water courses.

Relative to banks incorporated under the laws of the State, authorizing them to receive deposits.

Relative to the commencement of terms of office of judges.

A bill was reported authorizing cities to regulate sewer charges.

The following were read in place:

Mr. Newmyer—Supplement to the Mechanics' lien law, extending it to material furnished by sub-contractors.

Mr. Alexander—Imposing a State license of three hundred dollars on pawnbrokers.

Mr. Cooper—To protect children in the right to learn trades.

Mr. Jones—Exempting pianos from execution; also prohibiting the falsification of medical professional certificates.

Mr. Rutan—To repeal all general laws creating or renewing charters of corporations provided for by the Corporation act of last year.

Mr. Wallace—To enlarge the powers of courts to grant, alter and amend charters; also for the inspection of steam boilers.

Mr. Pinkerton—To extend the act of 1861 for the sale of canals, railroads, &c., to all corporations.

The Free Pipe bill was objected to by Mr. Jones, of Philadelphia, but will come up to-morrow in regular order.

HOUSE.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Christy—Making an appropriation for Dixmont Hospital; also for the expenses of the Ohio River Commission; also subsidizing a poll-tax for labor on roads.

Mr. Long—Relative to the support and employment of the poor in cities of the third class.

Mr. Stewart—Relating to the appointment of auditors by orphans' courts.

Mr. Wyllie—Fixing the standard weight of bark.

Mr. Barrett—Making an appropriation for the Pennsylvania Reform School.

Mr. O'Neill—Regulating pawnbroker's licenses.

Mr. Brown—Authorizing the appointment of stenographers in courts.

Mr. Hay—Empowering councils of cities to prescribe certain salaries.

Mr. Brown—Supplement to the $300 exemption law, prohibiting waiver.

Mr. Mitchell—To protect bituminous coal mines.

The following passed first reading:

Providing for the publication of the tenth volume of the Transactions of the State Agricultural Society; Relating to the courts of the State: Relating to judgment and stay of execution; Supplement to the Free Banking law of 1869; Christy's Ohio River Improvement bill.

The act for the establishment of new counties was passed over.

The bill exempting agricultural machinery from taxation was recommitted.

The act with reference to salaries of county treasurers was lost.

Mr. Morgan, of Lancaster, made a minority report in the Ringgold case, protesting against the jurisdiction of a committee of the House. After some debate, the Speaker decided the minority report not in order for the reason that the majority had made no report, and the matter was dropped for the present.

COLUMBUS.

Hiram H. Robinson Appointed State Librarian.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBUS, February 16, 1875.

Governor Allen to-day appointed Major Hiram A. Robinson, of Hamilton county, to the position of State Librarian, *vice* Walter C. Hood, deceased. Mr. Robinson is one of the race of old-time Democratic editors, having for the last forty years been connected with the press of the State. At one time he was connected with the Mc-Connellsville *Herald* and afterwards with the Lancaster *Eagle*, but most of his reputation was acquired as editor of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* during the Pierce and Buchanan administrations. His appointment is regarded as a good one by men of both parties.

SOME DISAPPOINTED VIGILANTS.

A Mob Near Helena, Colorado, Go for a Victim and Meet with the Warmest Kind of a Reception.

ST. LOUIS, February 16.—A special from Topeka, Kansas, says that near Helena, Colorado, on the 8th inst., thirty vigilants went to the house of one Gibbs, and on his refusing to deliver himself to them to be hung, set fire to the house, in which were Gibbs, two women and several children. Gibbs leaped out through the flames with a revolver and shot three of the party dead and wounded a fourth, when the rest took to their heels and fled. Gibbs had recently been acquitted on a charge of murder, and the vigilants proposed to take a summary appeal from the decision which set him at liberty.

BURNED ALIVE!

Three Children Locked in a Burning House in Fulton County—Destruction of the House and Inmates.

MCCONNELLSBURG, PA., February 16—The house of D. B. Mellott, in this county, was burned to-day and three of his children were burned to death. Mr. and Mrs. Mellott went away on a visit and left the children locked in the house. On their return, a few hours afterwards, they found the bones of the children among the ruins.

TILTON-BEECHER.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION OF PLAINTIFF.

Sworn Statement Offered and Rejected.

Mrs. Tilton's Explanation of Sinning Made Easy and Venial.

TILTON'S SERVANT ON THE STAND.

What She Saw Up Stairs, Down Stairs and in My Lady's Chamber.

NEW YORK, February 16.—The Brooklyn City Court room was densely packed this morning when the proceedings in the great scandal trial opened. All the counsel were present when the court opened. Mrs. Beecher and the defendant came in a little later. Mrs. Tilton was accompanied by her lady friend.

Mr. Tilton resumed the stand and continued: During the early part of the summer, when this story began to be noised among the papers, the impression was going around that I was a drunken and a brutal man, and in consultation with Judge Merris he advised the publication of the statement by me. My object in showing the "True Story" to a select party was to obtain from them the judgment which I thought the public would give it. My object in its preparation, was this: Mrs. Woodhull's publication was proving disastrous to my family and silence could no longer be safely maintained, and I intended to put forth a true statement in order that the people, who thought there was some foundation for her story, might see. Well, here we have the true statement, which explains everything." Witness said he showed this paper to Dr. Storrs among others.

Mr. Fullerton asked what took place when it was shown to Dr. Storrs, to which Mr. Evarts objected, and a long argument ensued. Mr. Fullerton contended that this question arose out of what had been elicited from the witness by the other side.

Judge Neilson finally decided to allow the question, and the witness continued: As soon as I read the paper to him there was a sudden pause; Dr. Storrs said to me: "Mr. Tilton, before I can consult with you or give you any advice, I want to ask you one question: if this narrative is the whole truth." I told him it was not the whole truth, but only a part of what I was going to give to the public, and he advised me not to publish it. I showed this story to perhaps twenty or twenty-five persons, and Mr. Beecher was among those to whom it was exhibited. I went to Plymouth church with Mr. Halliday, in which I denied the truth of the Woodhull story and vindicated my wife, though I said some words to Halliday about Beecher which were objectionable to Halliday. My object in speaking to Halliday on the matter was that he was the second power in Plymouth church, and I wanted to disabuse his mind of the idea that the Woodhull stories were true.

Witness was asked as to what took place before the Investigating Committee after the relation of his wife's confession.

Mr. Evarts objected, and another long argument took place.

The Court ruled that an answer might be given, and witness replied: I made a statement of my charge against Beecher and his criminal connection with Mrs. Tilton. I had stated to that committee, in writing, the confession made to me by Mrs. Tilton in July, 1870, and by Beecher in the December and January following. I had laid before them a sworn statement of the criminal intimacy between Henry Ward Beecher and Mrs. Tilton from the fall of 1868 to the spring of 1870. This is a copy of the paper I produced before them.

Mr. Evarts objected to this sworn statement being put in evidence.

Mr. Fullerton contended that this paper was sworn to by the witness before the committee, and therefore it was admissable under the rules of evidence.

Mr. Evarts argued that this bill was composed of accusations against his (Tilton's) wife, and could not therefore be given in evidence.

Judge Neilson said the wife was not on trial then, nor was she here, and therefore this was not a bill of accusations against her.

Mr. Beach said they were only seeking to throw light upon a part of the examination before the Investigating Committee, a part of which had been extracted by the other side. If only a portion of his testimony was elicited, he would be liable to conviction for inconsistency and he would be doing great injustice. He submitted that, under the ruling of the Court of Appeals, the whole testimony of Tilton's examination could be given. May not he explain it? Was he shut out from the jury as having allowed his wife to commit adultery and not prevent it? In this document is an explanation of Tilton's statement when he said that his wife had always insisted to him that she had not violated her marriage vow, and this was the document which explained Tilton's views on the matter when he stated this to the committee.

Mr. Evarts replied that his friend had wandered greatly from the subject matter of the argument. The question was if he (Tilton) made a qualifying statement of his views of what his wife meant when she said it was true, and for that purpose the other side had introduced this paper, which they offered in evidence. The other side did not intend to show if the wife qualified her statement when she made it to him. The paper, counsel argued, could be no evidence of itself, as it was only his (Tilton's) accusations against his wife. Mr. Evarts cited some cases in support of his position.

Judge Neilson held that the paper could not be read, nor any portion of it, but if counsel desired they might offer specific points in it for the purpose of basing their objections to its ruling out. Recess.

After recess, Mr. Fullerton rose to read paragraphs in the statement put in before the committee, and Mr. Evarts rose to his feet and interposed an objection. Mr. Tilton, who had been sitting among his counsel, here took his seat on the witness stand.

Mr. Beach argued that the Court permitted the reading of the Woodhull scandal and biography, section by section, to the jury, though it was ruled out as evidence, and that, therefore, the reading of this paper should be permitted, though it was ruled out as evidence.

Mr. Evarts submitted that there was no rule of evidence allowing the reading of this statement after it had been ruled out as testimony.

The argument was continued at some length, but Judge Neilson said he had decided to rule it out, Mr. Beach taking an exception.

Mr. Beach contended that he only offered portions of the statement to be read, and asked to make offer of proof.

Judge Neilson decided that the offer could be given, and Mr. Evarts excepted.

Mr. Beach then read the following portion of the statement offered, which the Court ruled out: "That about nine years ago Rev. Henry Ward Beecher began and thereafter continued a friendship with Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton, for whose sensitive delicacy and extreme religious sensibility he often expressed to her husband a high admiration, visiting her from time to time for years until the year 1870, when, for reasons hereinafter stated, he ceased such visits; during which period, by many tokens and attentions, he won the affectionate regard of Mrs. Tilton, whereby, after a long moral resistance by her and after repeated assaults by him upon her mind, with overmastering arguments, he secured the full possession of her person, maintaining with her thenceforward, during the period hereinafter stated, the closest called criminal intercourse; this relation being confined by her during that period as not criminal or morally wrong, such had been the power of his arguments as a clergyman to satisfy her religious scruples against such a violation of vigue and honor."

At this point Mr. Evarts objected to any further reading from Tilton's statement, and a long argument ensued.

The Court decided that the offer of proof could go on, and Mr. Beach then read as follows: "That on the evening of October 10th, 1868, or thereabouts, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton held an interview with Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, at his residence, she being then in a tender state of mind owing to the recent death and burial of a young child, and during that interview an act of criminal commerce took place between this pastor and his parishioner; the motive on her part being, as heretofore stated, not regarded by her at the time as criminal or wrong, which act was followed by a similar act of criminality between these same parties at Mrs. Tilton's residence, during a pastoral visit paid by Mr. Beecher to her, on the subsequent Saturday evening, followed also by other similar acts on various occasions from the autumn of 1868 to the spring of 1870, the places being the two residences aforesaid and occasionally other places to which her pastor would invite and accompany her, or at which he would meet her by previous appointment; these acts of sexual being, on her part, from first to last, not wanton or consciously wicked, but arising through a blinding of her moral perceptions, occasioned by the powerful influence exerted on her mind at that time to this end by Henry Ward Beecher, as her trusted religious preceptor and guide."

Judge Neilson ruled this out, and Mr. Beach took an exception.

Mr. Fullerton stated that he desired to produce a witness who wished to go to New York early this afternoon, where she was under medical treatment.

The Court agreed, and a lady ascended the stand who gave her name as Kate Cary and said she came from Bellevue Hospital, where she had been for eleven weeks. The witness continued: I was in the service of Mrs. Tilton about six years ago. When I was there Mrs. Tilton went to Monticello; I went with her and returned to the city with her. I saw Mr. Beecher go into Mrs. Tilton's bedroom several times, and she shut the door after him when he went in. I was in the next room, which was separated by folding doors from it. This was before she went to Monticello. I saw her in the back parlor after her return, sitting on Mr. Beecher's knee. It was then in the evening, but I saw them distinctly. The folding doors were open. I saw her hand on his shoulder, and he said: "How do you feel, Elizabeth?" and she said: "Dear Father, I feel so-so." I did not see anything else. This was about three weeks after her return from Monticello. Mr. Beecher called three or four times before she went to Monticello. The reason I left was because of some words I had with Bessie Turner. I think I left in cold weather, but do not recollect if it was before or after the election.

Cross-examined by Mr. Evarts—Witness gave the names of various parties she lived with after leaving Mrs. Tilton, and continued: I have been in ill health for ten weeks. Mr. Hanson, of Fifth street, obtained me a situation at Mrs. Tilton's. I came there about two weeks after the birth of a child—I think some time in June. The family then consisted of four children, Mr. and Mrs. Tilton and six servants, including Bessie Turner. Mrs. Tilton was then usually until four in the afternoon. I never saw Mr. Beecher before, but was told it was him. I had often heard of him, however. The folding doors separated Mrs. Tilton's room from mine, but I seldom went into her room, although the doors were usually open. When Mrs. Tilton went to bed she closed the doors. About two weeks after I went to service there, I first saw Mr. Beecher. I was in the other room and saw him come in. Jessie Burke showed him up to Mrs. Tilton's room. She told me afterwards that she opened the door to him. Jessie came up first, to see if Mrs. Tilton was ready to receive Mr. Beecher, and Mrs. Tilton replied that she would be ready in a few minutes. She was in bed when the message came up, but she closed the folding doors. I never saw Mr. Beecher there again, except when I was occupying the folding door room. This was, I think, about four weeks after her confinement. The family went to Monticello in July, but Mr. Tilton did not go there at all. We were living in a private boarding-house there. I was four months altogether in Bellevue Hospital. I saw Mr. Beecher and Mrs. Tilton together down stairs about three weeks after her return from Monticello. I was up stairs and so was Mrs. Tilton, when the word came of his arrival. She went down and I had to go down for a drink of ice-water. These rooms below are separated by folding doors, and I went on that occasion to the sideboard in the dining room for my drink of water. I cannot fix the date of this, but it was about three week's after the return from Monticello. They were sitting on the same arm-chair in the corner, facing the window. There are two windows in the back parlor and one in front. Beecher and the chair was in the corner of the room next the dining room and in front of the window nearest the dining room. The chair was near the wall separating the dining room and parlor. I saw Mr. Beecher in the chair and Mrs. Tilton on his knee. I saw this without putting my head into the parlor. The folding doors were open. I am a widow. After I saw this I went up to the nursery. Mrs. Tilton then had her hand on Mr. Beecher's shoulder. The door of the dining room was open when I went in, and is always left open. Mr. Beecher paid Mrs. Tilton three or four visits before she went to the country, and sent her baskets of elegant flowers to keep around her bed. Mr. Tilton saw these flowers, and all about the people where they came from. Last Friday I first told of having seen these things, to Mrs. Lawrence, a benevolent lady who visits the sick at Bellevue Hospital, and was through her that I became a witness. I never had any trouble with Mrs. Tilton or any person in the house, except Bessie Turner.

Mr. Evarts announced that this was all he had to ask the witness, and she was allowed to withdraw.

Mr. Tilton then resumed the witness chair. He was asked what he meant by stating before the Investigating Committee that he had confessed to Mrs. Tilton always maintained her innocence.

Mr. Evarts objected to this, and another wrangle between counsel ensued.

Judge Neilson decided to allow the question, and witness replied: She always said she loved God and He would not have permitted her to enter into these relations if they were sinful. She said that both of her mother nor myself understood what was right or wrong, and that Mr. Beecher had told her over and over that it was not sinful; that it was an expression of love, that love sometimes conveyed its meaning in a shaking of the hand, a kiss of the lips, or several interviews.

Judge Neilson decided to allow the question, and witness replied: She always used to say that she was not to be judged either by her mother or me, but by God. She believed that would judge her tenderly. She said she loved God and she did not believe that God would have permitted her to enter into those relations if they had been sinful, and she said particularly that neither her mother nor I had made it the business of our lives to understand the difference between right, as Mr. Beecher had; that Mr. Beecher was a clergyman, that he was a great and holy man, that he had repeatedly assured her that their relationship was not sinful and she did not see how it could be sinful; that he had told her that love justified all things, that love had various expressions, that a kiss upon one occasion was a shake of the hand, another expression was a kiss of the lips, another expression was sexual intercourse; and it made very little difference to her what expression was; if that love was right, the love itself made rightful or justified all the various expressions of it; and that she believed, before God, that the love for Mr. Beecher was right and his for her was right, and therefore she did not see how any of the various expressions of it could be sinful. She said she rested on Mr. Beecher's authority for that; he had told her so over and over again.

Mr. Evarts asked that all this be stricken out, but the Court adjourned for the day without the Judge giving a decision on the matter.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16, 1875.

The credentials of A. S. Paddock, United States Senator from Nebraska, were read and placed on file.

Numerous petitions of druggists were presented for the repeal of a portion of the internal revenue laws, known as "schedule C." Referred.

Mr. FERRY, of Michigan, from the Committee on Finance, reported, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the House bill restricting the funding of customs duties and prescribing certain regulations of the Treasury Department, and it was placed on the calendar.

At the expiration of the morning hour, the Senate resumed the consideration of the resolution for the admission of Pinchback, and Mr. Sargent continued his argument.

The Senate returned from the funeral of Representative Hooper at 2:40 P. M., and adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE.

The House met at eleven o'clock this morning. Immediately upon the reading of the journal, several members endeavored to obtain the floor, for the purpose of moving the suspension of the rules to take up various bills, but the regular order was insisted upon, and a number of bills, mostly of a private character, which had been considered in Committee of the Whole, were passed.

While a bill to pay the awards of the Southern Claims Commission was pending, Mr. DAWES moved to go into Committee of the Whole on the Tariff bill. The motion was defeated—yeas 90, nays 96.

Mr. GARFIELD reported the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill by unanimous consent.

It contains the following provisions: Hereafter no money shall be paid for contracts made for the payment for any site for a public building in excess of the amount specifically appropriated therefor; and no money shall be expended upon any public building on which work has not yet been already begun, until after drawings and specifications, together with detailed estimates of the cost thereof, shall have been made by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, and said plans and estimates shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; and appropriations made for the construction of such building shall be expended within the limitations of the act authorizing the same or limiting the cost thereof; and no change of said plan, involving an increase of expense exceeding ten per centum, together with the said building was limited, shall be allowed or paid by any officer of the Government, without special authority of Congress.

The funeral of the late Representative Hooper took place at two o'clock. All the galleries were crowded and, occupying precisely assigned seats, were the President, Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court and the Senate. The services consisted of the reading of Scriptures and a prayer, after which the funeral procession was reformed, the body was borne from the Hall and the House adjourned.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Internal Improvements.

THE PRESIDENT THINKS NO MONEY CAN NOW BE SPARED.

Surveys Should Go On, but Appropriations Withheld.

A CHECK ON CLERKS OF DISTRICT COURTS.

Test Vote on the Revenue Bill.

Mr. Dawes Acknowledges that it Cannot Pass in its Present Shape.

Congressional Action in Arkansas Impracticable.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16, 1875.

The President's Views on Internal Improvements.

The President, who, from the beginning of his civil administration, has been warmly interested in the various internal improvements, states that, in view of the diminution of the revenues of the Government from various causes, it would be impolitic at this time for Congress to appropriate much money for those objects. He thinks that it would be well to prosecute the surveys, but to make very large appropriations, such as would be demanded by one of the main water routes proposed, would, he thinks, be inexpedient. The revenues are now barely sufficient to meet the current expenses of the Government, without taking into consideration the sinking fund. While increased revenues are necessitated by the ordinary demands upon the Treasury, to properly inaugurate any of the proposed schemes would require additional taxation to provide the funds therefor. The plans for the improvement of the Western rivers and the proposed water routes to the seaboard are wisely chosen, and that they will ultimately be carried out, or in part, to the material advantage of trade between the interior and the seaboard; but the financial condition of the country at this juncture in considerations paramount to everything else. The examination of the various inter-oceanic routes on the isthmuses of Darien and Tehuantepec the President also considers a great prospective advantage to this. A large amount of valuable scientific and practical information has been collected, which will be of great service in the question of undertaking an enterprise of this character come up. The President thinks that the construction of a ship canal between the oceans is a work which belongs to the United States in both political and commercial aspects, and at the proper moment should receive such encouragement as would insure its complete success.

Department of Justice.

The bill originally reported by the House Committee on Expenditures of the Department of Justice, and which passed both Houses of Congress yesterday on a conference report, will enable the Department of Justice to remove from office those clerks of the courts who neglect their accounts to get into arrears, and these delinquencies are therefore not likely to occur again. In obedience to the requirements of this law, a large amount in fees has been paid; for instance, George P. Bowen, the clerk of the Southern district of Illinois, has lately paid in over six thousand dollars, in addition to over seven thousand dollars paid in arrears to the United States, on account of surplus fees received by him over the maximum compensation allowed by law.

The Revenue Bill.

When Mr. Dawes to-day moved to go into Committee of the Whole to consider the Revenue bill, the distinct understanding was that the question of going into committee was to be considered a test of the disposition of a majority of the House to proceed with the bill. The motion was defeated by such a very decided vote that Mr. Dawes himself now admits the fact that the bill can never pass unless it is very materially modified.

Legislation for Southern States.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections met to-day and considered the question of Congressional action in Arkansas, when Senator Morton admitted that to pass a bill at this time is impracticable. It was agreed to further consider the matter at their next meeting. There is a disposition to introduce a bill, even if it be not considered, in order to warn the States of the South against any more illegal attempts to overturn the reconstruction constitutions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16, 1875.

Postal changes for the week ending February 13th, in Pennsylvania:

Offices Established — Kilngerstown, Schuylkill county, E. M. Umholtz; Swengel, Union county, A. T. Shipton. Name Changed—Pleasant Gap, Centre, Susquehanna county, to Brandt.

Postmasters Appointed—D. G. Lentz, Allenville, Mifflin county; J. T. Hydes, Brandywine, Clearfield county; W. Nash, Crossingville, Crawford county; James L. Penney, Duncan, Allegheny county; Mrs. Sabia Proctor, Hatfield, Montgomery county; Bart. Fox, Hillsdale, Susquehanna county; B. H. Roth, Hoppenville, Montgomery county; Silas J. Coner, Jenner's Cross Roads, Somerset county; Mary C. Irwin, Lebanon Church, Allegheny county; Michael R. Smyzer, Lisburn, Cumberland county; Andrew Ocker, Madisonburg, Centre county; George W. Snyder, Marysville, Perry county; A. S. Beebore, Mowersville, Franklin county; M. McClelland, Painter, Westmoreland county; Jacob Hoffman, Perry, Montgomery county; S. D. Eckles, Wampum, Lawrence county; G. W. Campbell, Waterloo, Juniata county; John A. Holz, West Green, Erie county.

TWO CORRESPONDENTS AT LAW.

W. Scott Smith, a correspondent, has given bail to answer the charge of Joseph MacFarland, another correspondent, that Smith had maliciously libeled him by publishing him as a dishonest lobbyist.

THE PRESS GAG-LAW—NO AUTHORITY IN IT TO BRING A PERSON TO THE DISTRICT OR SEND HIM OUT OF THE DISTRICT FOR LIBEL.

The Senate Judiciary Committee having been directed by the Senate to report what is the meaning and extent of the so-called "Press Gag-law" of June 22, 1874, submitted a report to-day, expressing that the second section of the act of June 22, 1874, confers upon the courts of the District of Columbia the power to arrest offenders found in the District, who are charged with a crime committed within the District, and hold them for trial—which was the law before—and to arrest offenders found in the District who have committed crimes against the United States in some judicial district of the United States, and to send them to such district for trial, and that is all. No person can be brought into the District of Columbia under it, either for libel or any other crime. The committee are of opinion that both sections of the act are necessary and proper, and in accordance with the principles of justice and the course of civilized jurisprudence. Without provisions of this character, the District of Columbia would be a sure refuge for offenders committing crimes against the laws of the United States and escaping either. It only remains to refer, as directed by the resolution of the Senate, whether said act has any application to prosecution or indictment for the crime of libel in any case. We are of opinion that, before stated, no person charged with the crime of libel can be brought into the District of Columbia under it, for no person can be brought here under it for any crime whatever, and it is equally plain that no person charged with the crime of libel in any other district or place in the United States can be arrested here and sent to such district or place under it; for,

First, libel is not a crime against the laws of the United States in any of the States, so that no case could arise in which a court or judge in the District of Columbia could be called upon to arrest a person here and send him to any State for trial for libel. It should be here observed that the jurisdiction of courts of the United States in criminal cases, is confined to offenses created by the States of the United States; no offense at law is indictable or triable in the courts of the United States. This was early determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, and is the settled law of the land.

Second, if, in any Territory, libel is a crime by the laws, and if such laws could be held for such purposes to be laws of the United States, the act under consideration provides no aid in sending a person from this District to such a Territory; for the 33d section of the act of 1789 has no application whatever to Territories. The result is that the act of June 22, 1874, is not, in our opinion, obnoxious to any criticism, and in respect of the crime of libel it confers no power either to bring a person charged with it into the District of Columbia or to send him out of it.

(Singed) Geo. F. Edmunds, Roscoe Conkling, Fred T. Frelinghuysen, Geo. G. Wright, Allen G. Thurman, John W. Stevenson.

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

The following items appear in the River and Harbor bill reported to the House yesterday and referred to the Committee on Appropriations: For the Ohio river $800,000, of which $100,000 may be used for the construction of a movable dam or a dam with adjustable gates for the purpose of testing substantially the best method of improving permanently the navigation of the Ohio and its tributaries; Upper Monongahela river, near Morgantown, W. Va., $22,000; Great Kanawha river, W. Va., $100,000.

FAIR PROSPECT FOR AN EXTRA SESSION.

Mr. Dawes says that unless the House passes the Tariff bill, the Treasury will fail to meet its demands, and an extra session of Congress will be necessary.

ADVERSE REPORT ON AN INDIAN TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill to provide for the organization of a territorial form of government over the country usually known as the "Indian Territory," and for other purposes, reported to-day that, after a careful, thorough and impartial consideration of the subject, they find that in view of the peculiar relations to the Government sustained by the people therein, there is no authority which will justify (but, on the contrary, they find much in the many treaties with the Indians occupying and owning the Territory, in the acts of Congress vesting and guaranteeing certain rights and immunities to them, and in the opinions of the Supreme Court interpreting, defining and sustaining the same, which expressly forbid) the legislation proposed. The committee say: "Believing, as we do, that the legislation proposed in this bill to be unjust, inexpedient and therefore unwise, we trust the seal of disapproval will be by Congress emphatically set upon these and kindred movements calculated to destroy the binding force of the nation's obligations to the feeble people who are thereby to be affected. The people of this great nation ought to know, and those of the Indian nation ought to be reassured, that the Congress of the United States cannot and will not lend its sanction to any measure tarnishing the nation's honor, especially where its faith has been pledged by solemn guarantee and written covenant."

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Decisive Reply of President Scott to the Threatening Telegram of President Garrett.

PHILADELPHIA, February 16.—Thomas A. Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, has written a letter in reply to the telegram of President Garrett, of the Baltimore and Ohio road. After accusing Garrett of demagogism and acting in bad faith with the officers of other trunk lines in regard to rates, Colonel Scott goes on to say: "As far as this company is concerned, you may rely upon it that we will protect the business of Philadelphia and place Baltimore, New York and other points responsible by our lines on an equitable and fair business basis. In all matters relating to transportation over this road, while we desire moderate rates for the service performed, believing that it is best for the public and for the owners of railway property that this should be the case, we shall always be ready to take care of our share of the business of the country with such facilities equal to those of any other company. The lines from Washington and Baltimore to and from New York, over our road, shall be made quite as favorable for the convenience of the public from this date as they have ever been at any time in the past. There shall be no inconvenience whatever to the public by reason of your effort to destroy the railway property of any other parties. The Northern Central Railway Company will, during the present year, place its terminal facilities at Baltimore, so as to place that city on a full equality with others on the seaboard, and it will be the duty and interest of the company in whose line the United States may give to Baltimore a line in every respect equal, both as to rates and facilities, to any that the Baltimore and Ohio may be able to offer. It seems to me much unfair that you should attempt, by the course indicated in your message, to coerce other parties into a policy that might result in great injury to the property they represent. If the measures to be adopted by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company should produce the results that you anticipate, there will be no difficulty in understanding the motives which prompted such a course, and I believe the railway officers and stockholders will not be injured will hold you, as President of the Baltimore and Ohio road, responsible for this policy of destruction. So far as this company is concerned, it is eventually able to take care of its interests and its stockholders."

Incidental to the War—Large Reduction of Passenger Rates by the Baltimore and Ohio.

BALTIMORE, February 16.—There seems no prospect at present that the war between the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio will be reconciled. President Garrett to-night states that President Scott's telegram of to-day is a tissue of misrepresentations. In order to compel the Pennsylvania to resume the gateways of commerce to the people of Philadelphia and New York for the Baltimore and Ohio road and its connections, orders have been given by the Baltimore and Ohio to engage in an immense reduction of passenger rates between Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and the leading Western cities, viz.: between Philadelphia and Washington, from $19 to $10; between Cincinnati and Baltimore and Washington, from $16 to $10; between St. Louis and Baltimore and Washington, from $23 to $15; between Louisville and Baltimore and Washington, from $20 to $12; between Pittsburgh and Baltimore and Washington, from $8 50 to $5. A similar reduction is also to be made between Philadelphia and Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville and Pittsburgh. These reductions take effect at once. It is understood that the Baltimore and Ohio company is arranging for a line of first class steamships for the conveyance of freight between New York and Baltimore. All its Western connections have telegraphed to the Baltimore and Ohio company that they will cheerfully cooperate in its policy throughout, so long as the Pennsylvania road continues to obstruct its business to Philadelphia and New York.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

A Berlin dispatch reports General Von Moltke as seriously ill.

The steamer City of Chester, from Liverpool, has arrived at New York.

The National Grange, lately in session at Charleston, finally adjourned last night.

Crown Prince won the two mile dash, at the Augusta (Georgia) races yesterday, in 3:58¼.

Senator Andrew Johnson left Nashville last night for Washington, via Greenville, Tennessee.

A. G. Bates, of Washington, died in Yeddo January 13th, by suffocation from charcoal.

The steamer Alaska, from Hong Kong and Yokohama, arrived at San Francisco yesterday.

One hundred and fifty houses were destroyed by fire in Canton, China, on the third of July.

Dr. Kenealy, the disbarred counsel for the Tichborne claimant, has been elected to Parliament from Stoke-on-Trent by 2,000 majority.

It is said that Captain General Concha, of Cuba, will, on his return to Spain, probably be appointed to the command of the Army of the North.

It is said that Dr. De Koven has written a letter to the President of the Diocesan Convention of Illinois accepting the office of Bishop of that diocese.

Louisville is in the midst of a religious revival of unprecedented interest, under the preaching of Dio Whittle and the singing of P. P. Bliss, the evangelists of Chicago.

Attorney General Williams has given the opinion that section 2,675 of the revised statutes does not make revenue stamps with portraits of living persons upon them illegal.

Nearly one thousand families of Mennonites, it is expected, will soon arrive in Canada from Russia. They have chosen Manitoba for their future residence, and have commissioned an agent to buy for them several thousand head of cattle in the West.

Two sleeping coaches on the east-bound train on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, ran off the track yesterday, about forty miles west of Vincennes, Illinois, and were precipitated down an embankment twenty-five feet high, both taking fire and one taking fire. About a dozen passengers were wounded, but none killed or dangerously hurt.

Iron City College.

We copy from a late number of the *Presbyterian Banner* the following testimonial to the superior excellency of this popular and successful business college:

"The Iron City Commercial College is now in the full tide of successful study. This is the only institution of the kind in this city—Pittsburgh—that we recommend to the public patronage."

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

England.

JOHN MITCHELL ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT —THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TAKES MEANS TO KEEP HIM OUT.

LONDON, February 16.—John Mitchell has been returned to Parliament, from Tipperary, without opposition.

In the House of Commons to-day, W. Lucas Dyke, Conservative, moved for copies of the certificate of the trial and conviction of John Mitchell, in 1848, of the official notification of his escape and of the proclamation offering a reward for his apprehension; also for copies of the dispatch from the Governor of Van Dieman's Land relative to the granting of a ticket-of-leave to and the subsequent escape of Mitchell.

Mr. Nolan regretted that nearly all the Irish members had left the House, believing that business was over. He called attention to the fact that the Government did not arrest Mitchell when he was in Ireland last year.

Disraeli gave notice that he would move, next Thursday, a resolution declaring that as John Mitchell has been adjudged guilty of felony and sentenced to transportation, as he has neither endured the penalty

The Commercial.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1875.

THERE seems to be danger that the new revenue bill will be drowned in an ocean of adverse gab.

THE New York *World* has got a new managing editor, said to possess uncommon genius and ability. It is to be hoped he will succeed in thoroughly remodeling the *World*. For a long time past it has been flat.

SENATOR HOWE, of Wisconsin, whose term of office will expire two years hence, is in feeble health, and not likely to be re-elected. Our foreteller of events has a distinct impression that CARPENTER will be his successor.

WHAT are the Grangers, who are just now quite prominently before the country, doing for their suffering brethren in Kansas and Nebraska? Are they properly improving their opportunity for showing the alleged philanthropy of their Order?

"Senator Gordon asks Wendell Phillips to visit the South and see the condition of affairs for himself. But Wendell will not be likely to accept the invitation."—*Post.*

He would, undoubtedly, if Senator GORDON would guarantee his safety in the public advocacy of the Civil Rights bill.

AN INGENIOUS mechanician connected with the Patent Office at Washington has constructed a talking machine which, when wound up, pronounces, on its keys being played on, all the parts of speech with perfect clearness and distinctness. A good many constituencies, State and national, would find such machines decided improvements on their present representations.

WE do not like the disposition observable on the part of some who desire to be ranked as leaders of the Republican party in Congress, to conciliate the opposition. The men who have sand in their gizzards are the true men for the situation, which is full of the gravest peril. It is not the Republican party, but the country which is in danger. Mere tenderness of purpose will not longer serve.

NEITHER do the people of Cincinnati like the taste of Dead Sea apples. According to the *Gazette* of that city, an overwhelming majority of its citizens desire reform in the city government in nearly all its branches. They have had enough of Democratic rule. Democrats themselves are disgusted with the latter. The Republicans have an excellent prospect of carrying almost everything before them in the coming municipal election, if they set about the matter in earnest.

THE Supreme Court, on Monday, rendered a decision in the case of WHARTON *et al. vs.* the City of Philadelphia, involving the issue of loans amounting to two millions of dollars, to be used in extending gas and sewer improvements. Under the ruling of the Court the loans will be issued, and work, consequently, will be furnished to thousands of needy men. The effort to restrain the city from proceeding in the matter grew out of the spasm of "reform" which convulsed a certain class in Philadelphia, a year or so ago.

THE Washington correspondent of the Springfield *Republican* informs us that the Democratic Senators were greatly elated over Senator EATON'S entrance upon Senatorial life, the other day, and that they welcomed him to his seat with not a few demonstrations of excited delight. There is nothing strange in it, however. EATON is a copperhead of the copperheads, who will be likely to out-venom Kentucky BROWN on the one hand, and on the other to out-truckle FERNANDO WOOD.

ILLINOIS is not a little excited over an informal opinion lately expressed in conversation by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of that State, regarding the constitutionality of the legislation amendatory of former laws, had since the adoption of the new Constitution. He held that all statutes in which the law amended has not been set forth at large will have to be declared unconstitutional, a view which, should the Supreme Court sustain it, will invalidate almost all the laws enacted since the adoption of the new instrument, there by involving the courts and the people in an immense amount of inconvenience, trouble, and general undoing and expense.

FOR the first time in the history of the foreign trade of New York, the total exports of that port, for the expired portion of the current year, have exceeded the total imports. This has been brought about by the falling off in the landing of foreign products, and the increase in the outflow of specie. The total imports for the past seven months, according to the exhibit given in the New York papers, have been $193,941,-—, and the total exports, including specie $261,222,810. For January of the present year the total imports amount to $24,881,256, against $30,310,679 last year, and the exports to $29,410,728, against $26,116,146 for the corresponding period of 1874. The customs receipts during January were $8,072,846, against $10,042,084 for the relating period of the preceding year.

IT is now definitely known that the failure of the attempts at a compromise between the contending factions in Louisiana was due mainly to Democratic lost ditchers at the North, who appealed to their Southern confreres to keep their wounds open for the sake of the party. During the pending of the negotiations, a great number of dispatches were sent to Conservatives in New Orleans from the Manhattan Club in New York, from Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and nearly all the leading cities of the North, advising, in the strongest terms, against making any settlement, of whatever character. The simple truth is that they are inflexibly opposed to any legislation in Congress which promises to give peace and prosperity to that distracted State, or to curb their own reactionary and dangerous purposes.

THE Established Church of England seems to be in a very fair way of soon becoming disestablished. There are dissensions within it, as well as dissenters outside of it, and we observe that JOHN BRIGHT'S recent arraignment of that Church, so direct, incisive and powerful, is already beginning to stir English political opinion to its depths. The whole tenor of his pronunciamento—for his address almost rose to the dignity and importance of one—was an invitation to the opponents of establishment to pluck up courage and advance more vigorously to the assault. It will be likely, however, to act as a fire-brand of discontent in the Liberal ranks, whose consequences threaten to be only less serious than those resulting from GLADSTONE'S retirement. There can be little doubt, however, that he is right when he says: "It will be a great day for freedom in this country, and for Protestantism and Christianity, which shall witness the full enfranchisement of the Church within the realms of England."

RECOVERY from a panic is always slow, but it would seem that by this time we ought certainly to have reached bedrock. The statistics of the business of the transatlantic steamship lines for the last year, show a decrease of $27,523,385 in the total receipts, as compared with 1873, the largest portion of the decrease being in passenger receipts from people who, except for the panic and its results, would have gone abroad and scattered their money all over Europe instead of remaining at home and economizing. The New York *Mail* estimates that the country is fully a hundred million dollars better off, to-day, for the practice of this economy. This, too, is only one of the many ways in which we have been recovering from the effects of the panic. All around us are the evidences of recuperation and the elements of growth, and every day is slowly adding to the solid wealth of the country. If it were not for the uncertainty of the conditions under which capital is now compelled to seek employment, there would probably be far less complaint throughout the country of the continued absence of prosperity. We shall right ourselves presently, however.

THE American National Silk Association, in urging the Treasury Department to exert all its powers to put an end to the smuggling frauds which have become so grave a public injury and scandal, has taken a step which other organizations of the kind would do well to follow; for, after all, it is chiefly by the creation of a strong sentiment of this kind that it is possible to stimulate the Government to a vigorous performance of its whole duty in the premises. To be sure the free traders argue that if the duty is reduced there will not be any inducement for smuggling, but that is not a sufficient answer. The country needs all its revenues. Probably the best plan that could be adopted to prevent these wholesale frauds would be by the re-establishment of a moiety system like, in its main features, but shorn of their defects, to the system repealed under pressure of public clamor, last year. Experience has fully demonstrated that, as human nature is now constituted, the revenues cannot be properly protected unless special inducements are offered for the detection of fraud.

THE PUDDLERS' STRIKE.

One of the most remarkable circumstances connected with the "hard times" which we are now experiencing, is the fact that a large and intelligent body of skilled workmen should voluntarily remain idle, rather than submit to a reduction upon wages which prevailed during the flush times, when prices were high, demand active, and labor in constant request. We know that trades unions are slow to accept the statements of those for whom they labor, as to the necessity for a reduction in wages, and they are perhaps justifiable in striking until entirely satisfied of that necessity. Our iron manufacturers declared, as individuals and as a body, that they could not continue to pay to their workmen the high wages which had been paid in the past, except at a loss, and that a reduction was absolutely necessary in order to keep the mills running. The puddlers, having a well organized association, resisted the reduction, for reasons which have already been given to the public. They could see no justice in a reduction, and refused to submit to it. They evidently believed that the manufacturers were not in earnest, and would resume work at the old rates after a brief lock-out. The strike was inaugurated about the first of December, now over two months and a half; and the manufacturers are as determined as ever, simply because they prefer to have their works lie idle rather than operate them at a loss. The puddlers, as an organization, still hold out, and in this action they virtually assert their belief that the mill owners will eventually come to their terms. This is the logical inference from their acts as a body, but it is extremely doubtful whether a titine of them, as individuals, hope for any such solution of the difficulty. What amount of evidence, then, will satisfy the puddlers' union that the statements of the mill owners are truthful, and their demand for a reduction reasonable? Will it require two and a half months more of idleness, with the increasing want which is sure to result?

The files of the COMMERCIAL show that $643,100 worth of muck-bar and scrap iron have been brought to this city, since the strike, to supply the limited number of mills which are now running upon specialties. This half-million of dollars worth of iron should have been manufactured here, and the profits of the labor shared by the puddlers and their helpers. All this is an absolute loss, because others have pocketed the proceeds of the labor. But this is a mere incident, large as it is; because, if there had been no prolonged strike, the iron business would have continued through the winter with but a comparatively small diminution in volume. As it is, not only have all other mill hands been thrown idle, as well as puddlers, but the trade of Pittsburgh is being diverted to other cities. Purchasers seek the cheapest markets; and if our mill owners, either from a direct stoppage of the mills, or from exorbitant demands for labor, compelling indirect suspension of work, are unable to compete with manufacturers who do not encounter these difficulties, they cannot long maintain their trade. To destroy the supremacy of Pittsburgh as an iron manufacturing centre, would be fatal to her prosperity as a city. There are now between fifteen and twenty thousand workmen employed on iron and steel industries alone in this city and vicinity; and if these skilled men, as a class, desire to prosper in the future, as they have in the past, they must labor, in common with the manufacturers, to maintain their supremacy in the trade, and not seek to destroy it. The puddlers, by the course they are pursuing, are not only depriving themselves of the means of making a good living, but are keeping thousands of their fellow workmen from earning a livelihood. It is an amazing spectacle that, with work freely offering, at good living wages, the puddlers should remain idle until their families (or at least many of them) are compelled to beg for bread! Yet such is the fact. And while enduring these privations, they are at the same time helping to cripple and ruin the business from which they expect in the future to support themselves and their families, and which, in its various branches, gives strength and vitality to every other industry of this great city. If the puddlers' union cannot see the folly of such a course, will not the puddlers, as individuals, assert their own manhood and independence, and for the sake of their families, their fellow workmen, and the community at which they form so important a part, go to work at the terms offered—hoping for the better day, when better prices can be had for their labor? Would not such a course be humane, and wise, and just and honorable?

WE STATED, in yesterday's paper, that the Joliet, Illinois, Iron and Steel Company had just elected a new set of directors. It appears that the prostrate and dead condition of the mills when taken charge of by the board of directors elected in August last, in some manner gave rise to suspicions of subsequent inefficient management, which, at length, developed into an opposition of such proportions and so much strength as, at the late election, to defeat the old management, and elect a new board. This new board went on the same day directed to examine into the charges against the old one, and did so by a committee, who unanimously reported that they found all accounts, books, and everything straight and honest. They also passed a resolution recognizing the zeal, wisdom, pluck, and ability which had created so great a success; and then a compromise was effected by which several of the new directors resigned, and members of the old board were elected in their places. As now standing, therefore, the board is substantially as before the late election. Financial arrangements have, we learn, been made by the company to put the mills, both puddling and rail, into operation at a very early day, as well as the new blast furnaces, which, as yet, have never been fired. Great satisfaction among all parties is expressed with the final results of the reorganization.

HORACE MANN used to say that, with forty miles of pure atmosphere encircling us, it was useless economy to breathe it more than once. According to all accounts, however, there is a great deal of niggardliness in respect to pure air, in the Capitol at Washington. The two great chambers of Congress are described by a correspondent as being cursed with a lack of ventilation such as afflicts no similar legislative apartments in the world. This explains an apparent mytery. Whilst helping to account for the unhealthy character of so much of the rhetorical wind let off in those bodies, it also partly solves the riddle of the mephitic insanities of the correspondents, who are packed together in a pen directly above the desk of the Speaker, to whom the remarks of members are by parliamentary law invariably addressed. Thus these correspondents are doomed to inhale air which, pumped and repumped through Congressional lungs, reaches them in a thoroughly infected condition, poisoning the brain through the blood, and more or less perverting and vitiating whatever they write and do.

A BANGOR man has invented a fire shield to prevent fires from leaping across a street on to adjoining buildings, and also to protect the firemen. The device is light and portable—two men can easily handle it—about fifty-four inches in width by six and one-half feet in height, with a protecting curve at the top, the whole being of galvanized iron. Near the center, and on a level with the eye, is an orifice some eight inches in diameter, which can be wholly closed or opened sufficiently for the introduction of the nozzle of the hose when playing. The patent also includes the insertion of a small window of mica, through which the hoseman can watch the action of the flames while fighting the hottest fire in safety.

A REVENUE cutter sailing by Duxbury pier, on the coast of Massachusetts, during the severe gale last week, saw a flag of distress flying from the lighthouse. Sending a boat's crew for inquiry, it was stated that the inmates of the lighthouse had had no communication with the outside world for forty-nine days. Their fuel was exhausted; they had no water, and would in a few days be out of food. Their wants were supplied. We see that the salary attached to the office of lighthouse keeper at this highly comfortable station is $600; and there would probably be about that number of applicants for it, if the present incumbent should resign.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The Democracy apparently look on a tax on whisky as attacks on their party.

The Suez Canal is rapidly filling up with desert sands, carried into it by the wind.

Does the venerable poet Bryant cherish a latent political ambition like unto Greeley?

It is claimed that there is over $15,000,000 cash capital invested in Grange enterprises.

A ritualistic war has now arisen in Canada, and is being prosecuted with much vigor.

The St. Louis city council refuse to experiment any more with the social evil, just at present.

Ex-Governor Vance, of North Carolina, is lecturing on demagogues. He has only to look into his own nature and speak.

Mrs. Sine, of New Jersey, says an exchange, "is living with her fourth husband." The other three adjourned *sine die*.

The Democrats claim the election of Jones as Senator for Florida as a triumph over "carpet-baggers." Jones is an Irishman.

Many vessels are ice-bound off the New England coast, and nearly all the fishing craft detained there have hoisted distress signals.

The Catholics have begun a new and vigorous campaign among the colored people in the South, with the view of making proselytes.

The Paterson, N. J., silk mills are running to their utmost capacity, but the Grant Locomotive Works are virtually suspended.

Sensible. Southern journals are urging upon the farmers of that section to plant less cotton and more oats and corn, the coming season.

They say that "the size of Venus has been determined with the accuracy of about the 300th of its value." Isn't that rather nebulous?

Boston vaunts its intellectual superiority in that a conductor of one of its horse cars is a "graduate of a first-class college." Has he horse sense?

Tilton's poetry reads so much like the confessions of a famous French philosopher, that perhaps he may be called the American Rousseau.

A judgment creditor of the State of Virginia has undertaken to levy execution on the State Library and the furniture in the Governor's residence.

Thurlow Weed has given the use of three thousand dollars for an indefinite period of time, to the burned out Shakers at Mount Lebanon, New York.

Railroads freights are running down as low as the thermometers. Fifteen cents per hundred weight from New York to Chicago is the figure.

Good. "The Women's Polytechnic Institute" of Illinois, has just been incorporated under the laws of that State, with a capital stock of $100,000.

Three of the most spacious craft ever floated on the lakes are now in process of construction, one at Buffalo, one at Cleveland, and the third at Toledo.

An expedition of a remarkable character is organizing in Europe, for the purpose of making a filibustering descent upon some of the West India Islands.

"Happy he who has done nothing to make himself famous," says the New York *Tribune*. Then the editor of that paper should feel unspeakably content.

The entire country seems to have caught an excessive cold. Reports of the weather from all parts of the land, even as far south as Texas, all tell the same story.

It is pleasant to note that the question of cheap and respectable quarters for working mechanics, and other persons of limited means, is engaging such general attention.

The commerce of France is passing beyond any period in its history. The exports and imports of 1874 amounted to over 81,500,000,000, largely exceeding any former year.

Wholesale desolation. By the burning of the steamer Cospatrick, recently, a Jersey woman lost eight brothers, two sisters, her mother, and several cousins and uncles.

Some of the New England skating ponds are natural gas-works. Carburetted hydrogen bubbles up from decaying matter at the bottom, and the boys light it and skate by gaslight.

Among the contents of a box of articles lately sent to the starving of Kansas, was a tract entitled "The Wickedness of Gluttony." This may be called one of the humors of starvation.

A writer on the rebellion, speaking of the view he had of Sherman's army from a distance, says it resembled a great "blue mass." Well, it did run through the Confederacy at a pretty lively pace.

It appears that from the first days of the Beecher trial a class of unscrupulous medders have been sending anonymous letters to the jurymen with the idea of poisoning their minds, one way or the other.

The work of the Panama Surveying Expedition is progressing favorably. Two parties are in the field, one locating the feeder, and the other the main line. All the indications are favorable so far.

And now it is Bristow's turn. The story is that he has formed a law partnership with a prominent legal firm in New York city, and will retire from the Cabinet on April 1 next. The rumor is worthy of the day.

All the members of Congress have been invited to visit Philadelphia on the night of the 22d instant, and attend an "International Assembly," at which all nations are to be represented in appropriate costumes.

The English "Hospital Sunday Fund" for last year, was derived from collections in nearly 1,300 places of worship, and amounted, altogether, to nearly $150,000. Why not inaugurate a similar plan for aiding medical charities here?

A Chicago artist, Miss Ransom, seems to be in a fair way to obtain an appropriation of $20,000 from Congress for a badly drawn, highly colored, full length portrait of General Thomas, which connoisseurs say would be dear at $500. That's a costly ransom.

The fourth annual convention of the Metropolitan Catholic Temperance Union will be held at Newburg, New York, on the 22d instant. The Temperance Union in America, and the different State Unions throughout the country, will be represented.

The mining interests of Canada, although yet in their infancy, already amount to upwards of $5,000,000 annually. Fourteen thousand men are directly employed in mining and allied industries, which would represent a population of 75,000, besides many indirectly.

The New York Board of Charities and Correction have voted that the small-pox hospital on Blackwell's Island be turned over to the homeopathists. This is the first concession ever made by any branch of the government of that city to this school of medicine.

OHIO NEWS.

There were thirty-nine deaths in Cleveland, last week.

Urbana is to have a six-acre park near the center of the city.

Orders for about one hundred tons of coal are given, on the average each day, at the Cleveland Infirmary office.

Stephen Malony, indicted for the murder of Gothard Franklin at Loveland, on the 4th of July last, was acquitted on Saturday.

General Sam Cary, of Cincinnati, has bonded a gold mine in Colorado. He proposes to organize a company to work the mine.

When an Akron fireman has served five years continuously he receives a certificate to that effect, and is said to have graduated.

A man who left Mansfield for California, many years ago, and was afterwards reported to have died, has turned up in Missouri, alive and well. He left a family in Mansfield.

Friday night two tramps were frozen to death a couple of miles north of the village of Baltimore, Fairfield county. They were found in a pile of corn fodder, but nothing can be ascertained as to their identity, or whence they came.

A special from Pike to the Cleveland *Herald* says: An Italian laborer living with a woman as man and wife at Old Hickory, nearly two miles from this place, had some domestic trouble on Thursday night, but nothing of a serious nature occurred. Yesterday the woman had evidently prepared for another encounter when her man should appear. He went home about nine o'clock and retired for the night. Waiting until he got to sleep she went to his bed and fired twice, both the shots taking effect about the head. The shots taking effect about the case is that after he was shot he ran to this place, nearly two miles, before giving the alarm. His feet and body were nearly frozen, as he did not wait to put on his clothes for fear she would shoot again. He is still living, but cannot recover. The woman is under arrest.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Spencer, of Modus, Conn., has just welcomed his twenty-seventh child. A repeating Spencer.

General James Longstreet has abandoned Louisiana politics, and has bought a farm in Georgia, where he proposes to engage largely in sheep raising.

Ex-Vice President Colfax is now the Vice President of the Indiana Reaper and Iron Company, which has a large foundry and machine shops at South Bend in that State.

The gold medal to be presented by sympathizing friends in France to John Brown's widow and sons has at last been completed and forwarded to this country. It weighs nearly five ounces. Accompanying it is a letter to Mrs. Brown, signed by Victor Hugo, Louis Blanc, V. Schoelcher, Eugene Pelletan, Etienne Arago, Laurent-Pichat, and other members of the committee of subscription.

Miss Caroline M. Burnham, of Philadelphia, has applied for permission to practice before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Her application has been referred to an examining committee by the Court in General Term. The Supreme Court of that District having admitted one lady (Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood) to practice, it is probable that the present applicant will be admitted in case her examination is a satisfactory one.

A budding genius. Kankakee, Illinois, has an eight-year old youngster who has already gone into the publishing business, and who may sometime be heard from in the ranks of the *literati*. He is publishing a monthly magazine four by three inches in size. He sets the type and works off the edition himself, besides filling the editorial chair and managing the finances of the concern. The work is all done outside of school hours.

A blooming New Jersey belle named Mary E. Muffet has just been married in a dress consisting of a buff-colored silk, the materials of which were brought from Canton, China, and taken to England during the American Revolution by Rogor Kean, a prominent merchant of that day, and great-great-grand-father to the bride. She is the sixth bride married in that dress during five generations—three in England and three in this country.

Here is the latest "true story" told in connection with the "scandal:" An old Scotch lady, whose sympathies apparently warmed to Theodore Tilton, was about concluding a purchase in a dry goods store in New York, the other day, when her eye accidentally lighted upon a picture of the great "defendant" hanging in the window. Throwing her head straight back, her eyes flashing fire, she exclaimed: "Who hae ye there? Is that Beecher? Deil tak yer goods, I'll not teech a thread o' them," and she bounded from the store as if shot from a mortar.

Carpet-Bagging.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The principal grievance of which the "Southern States" complain, seems to be "carpet-bagging." We have heard so much of it, and always and only as a grievance, that we have come to accept this definition as a matter of course; but come to look at it seriously, and it simply stands for emigrating, a habit to which the human race has been addicted since a very early age. The evil, if it be an evil, is one with which this country has been greatly afflicted. The Phœnicians are believed to have carpet-bagged into it, centuries before the Northman planted Vineland. The twelve tribes are supposed to have come, satchel in hand, nobody knows when. Columbus brought a lot of carpet-baggers. All the first families carpet-bagged into Virginia, and wickedly displaced the Powhattans, by monopolizing all the offices, honors and emoluments of the Mother of Presidents. The Pilgrim Fathers carpet-bagged into New England. The Dutch and Irish carpet-baggers have overrun all the Middle States; while the great Northwest has been swindled and overrun by that class of pests than even by the grasshoppers themselves.

Abraham Lincoln carpet-bagged from Kentucky to Illinois, had not much of a carpet-bag at that, and was tamely permitted to carry off the highest honors of that State. Stephen A. Douglass, another carpet-bagger, stands next to him. Thaddeus Stevens carpet-bagged into Pennsylvania, and carried off the honor of establishing public schools in her borders, being the clearest-headed statesman sent to represent her in the national councils, during a long period of deadly national peril. Alexander Ramsey, now contending for a continuance of national honors from Minnesota, went there, first, as a carpet-bag Governor, and a close examination would most probably show that a majority of all the members of Congress are carpet-baggers in the States they represent. In fact carpet-bagging seems to be a confirmed habit of the American people. It grew out of their origin and has been confirmed by the Constitution; and why is it that the papers and statesmen who are so troubled about President Grant violating the Constitution, have never uttered a word of remonstrance about that general, wholesale disregard of the instrument implied in the name "Carpet-bagger," bestowed as opprobrious on those citizens of other States or foreign governments, who have chosen to emigrate South? Is not the constitutional right of emigration into those States clear and indisputable, and when that native American term of reproach came for emigrants, designed to express contempt, do they not violate the spirit of the Constitution and its letter, whenever they object in the way of citizens of other States any impediment in the exercise of all the rights enjoyed by those born on the soil?

Why do not our constitutional sticklers get up meetings to protest against the gross violations of the Constitution which prevents the question of the right of citizens of Northern States to go, dwell in and enjoy all the advantages of citizenship in any or all of the Southern States?

If people do not like to take nothing but carpet-bags, is it not from a sense of insecurity? Remove this and they will go with their trunks and carry their household gods; but before a man invests largely in a new home he is apt to go, satchel in hand, and survey the ground. He is a carpet-bagger then, and if he concludes that life and property are not secure in the region he visits, he is not likely to make a permanent settlement.

I know one gentleman who thought of emigrating South who took his carpet-bag and went to spy out the land. All looked propitious, in most places; but after he had registered his name in a hotel in a town in the southern part of Georgia, he was handed a slip of paper:

"We will meet you in your room tonight at twelve o'clock. K. K. K."

He lit a cigar with it, and sat down in the office to read and smoke. A knot of ruffianly men gathered in and began a noisy discussion on politics, using the most insulting language toward Yankees and nigger-worshippers, but he seemed to take no notice.

After some time one of the ruffians swaggered up to him and inquired if he "wasn't a Yankee?" He replied that he was, and supposed they were the K. K. K. who were to see him, at twelve o'clock, in his own room, suggested that it would be better to have the interview there and then. He said he came South to buy land, not to talk politics, but if they had anything to say to him he preferred hearing it before he went to bed. He was not disturbed, but concluded that Georgia land would be selling at three cents per square mile, with a large discount on cash payments, when he bought any.

In a Texas hotel he heard a knot of men discussing the skinning of a negro, in which one of them had taken part. It seemed to be a case with which they were all more or less familiar, but to the details of which, from a participant, they all listened as a set of Rocky Mountain hunters would do to a hero recounting his adventures in capturing a grizzly bear. He told just how they had done it, how nicely they had taken the entire skin, in one piece, how the "nigger yelled" and struggled, how they stretched the skin, and nailed it against a tree, to dry, and how the victim lived a half hour after the operation.

My informant, who was a shocked listener to the tale, and to the coarse, ribald jests and frightful oaths which it called out, will not, soon, emigrate South. The people of those States are unfit for self-government. The nation should have established military and territorial governments in all the States, and no man who took an oath, or fought to support the Confederacy, should ever have been permitted to vote. The lands of the rebels should have been confiscated, and sold in small farms to pay the war debt, and thus those States would have been redeemed by such a flow of emigration as would ultimately place them on a sure basis, financially and politically. This, or something like it, will have to be done yet. This Government cannot afford to permit the largest and best portion of her territory to be held by a set of semi-savages, who undertake to build a Chinese wall of prejudice around it, and to exclude the citizens of other States or lands. Any man who pleases has a right to go there, get any office he can, and stay as long or short a time as he pleases, and, in this right, this Government is bound to protect not only its own citizens but those of other countries.

JANE GREY SWISSHELM.

The Pennsylvania Railroad and the Centennial.

The Philadelphia *Press* says: The Pennsylvania Railroad Company is, it is said, making preparations for the extensive business in prospect during the present year. It is understood that the company propose building, at the intersection of Belmont and Elm avenues, near the main entrance to the Centennial Buildings, a grand depot, covering an immense area, underneath the roof of which can be accommodated 15,000 persons. The branch track, to prevent accident, will be spanned over by an immense bridge, which will serve as a grand promenade, and from which steps will descend upon either side to the depot proper. It is also proposed to build a mammoth hotel opposite the grand depot to accommodate two hundred guests. The hotel will be a perfect, although a temporary, structure, being made up of a series of framework, which, after the exhibition, can be disposed of for private cottages. There will be placed upon the road, between Philadelphia and New York, a series of elegantly upholstered trains that will make the distance in about half the time consumed by the swiftest express trains. This result will be accomplished by a thorough repair of the track, by the laying of new rails, and by the introduction of heavier and more powerful engines.

STATE NEWS.

The building for the Indiana normal school is completed by the contractors.

The Scranton *Times* has discontinued its Sunday edition in order to give the editors rest.

Mrs. Mabel McConnell died at her residence in Taylor township, Cambria county, on the 13th inst., aged eighty-three years.

Mr. E. J. Boyer, of Valley township, Montour county, put up two large stoves in his hog-pen recently, for the greater comfort of his "grunters."

Rev. Mr. Crawford, of Newport, Perry county, has been secured as pastor of the Reformed church of Lewisburg, and will enter upon his duties in March.

It is said that no hotel in Harrisburg would accommodate the Jubilee Singers, and they had to go to Lancaster to get lodgings. If true, Harrisburg hotels should go South.

Mr. Robert Patton, who opened the first coal mines in the neighborhood of Minersville, Northumberland county, died at Locust Gap, on the 20th ult., in the seventy-second year of his age.

The Chester *News* says that two men in a boat attempted to cross the Delaware at Brach's wharf, on Monday, and when half way across became ice bound, and were not relieved from their perilous position until Wednesday at noon.

The Philipsburg *Journal* mentions the death of Mr. John D. Simler, of Lloysville, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. Mr. Simler's grandfather, John Henry Simler, was an officer under La Fayette, in the revolutionary struggle, in the year 1778.

Mr. George de B. Keim has been appointed general solicitor of the Reading Railroad Company, with his office at the general office of the company. He will have general charge of all the legal business of the company and the correspondence with the counsel in the several counties.

A family named France, residing in Meyersdale, Somerset county, has suffered a terrible bereavement recently. Three children, aged respectively one, three, and seven years, fell victims to the "red flood of the nursery"—scarlet fever, within a period of two weeks, and this included all the little ones in their household.

A semi-official rumor is abroad, says the Meadville *Republican*, that the proposition to remove the general offices of the Atlantic Railroad Company to Cleveland has been abandoned, and the announcement made that they will remain here permanently. This will be gratifying news to our citizens as it is to many of the boss officers of the company now located here, and who are loath to surrender the pleasant ties which make their permanent stay here desirable.

There appeared last week in the obituary columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, announcements of the deaths of fourteen persons, eight men and six women, who had lived beyond the advanced age of eighty years, to wit: John M. Carter, aged 81; Edward Edwards, 81; Charity Kaighn, 81; William McGowan, 82; Mary Reese, 83; Prudence Donavan, 84; Sarah Cruser, 85; Elizabeth McEllhenney, 85; Michael Lynn, 85; John Reed, 85, Ann Eggleston, 87; John P. Hutchinson, 88; David Gwynn, 88, and Richard Ross, 89.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* says: During the past week a man, representing himself as an agent of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, has been going among widows and poor persons, stating to them that the company was now distributing coal to those in need, the money for hauling only being asked in return. He obtained several sums ranging from one to two dollars, from poor men and women, who were very deeply disappointed upon being told, at the office of the company, to which they repaired when finding the coal was not being delivered, that they had given their money to a swindler. This very miserable scoundrel should be watched.

The Beaumont Deer Park Association of Bucks county, have just imported a fallow buck from England by the steamer Manhattan, which arrived at Philadelphia on Friday evening last, the 12th inst. This association, incorporated about four years ago "for the propagation of game and fish," procured in 1872 the remnant of a herd of fallow deer, which formerly belonged to the late Colonel Joseph Tuley, of Virginia. The only buck belonging to the herd died soon after they became the property of the association, and by the kindness of the Earl of Derby, the buck just imported was allowed to be taken from his large and splendid herd. This buck is one of the only lot of English fallow deer now in America, and it is the intention of the Beaumont Deer Park Association to supply other parks, as well as the Zoological Gardens, if successful in breeding from this stock.

THE sensational story telegraphed through the country a while ago from New York that figures gathered at the transit of Venus had developed the fact that the earth was plunging towards the sun at a rate that would land us there in 1,400 years did not cause great anxiety at the time for various reasons. Our largest leases are only 999 years anyway, and, as this left a margin of 401 years additional, it required no great effort to depress the stock market, and so failed to disturb our cents of security, so to speak. However, Mr. Richard A. Proctor has taken the matter up and shows conclusively its absurdity by the very simple illustration that, if the earth had, during the last century, drawn one-thirtieth of her distance nearer to the sun, the year would now be eighteen days shorter than it then was. But in fact, the difference between the Chaldean sidereal year and our own is only some three hundred minutes, which indicates that if we have approached the sun at all it has been at the rate of eight miles in a hundred years, and even this is doubtful, as the Chaldean astronomers did not profess to absolute accuracy.

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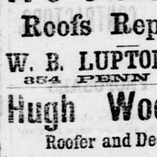

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PETER WRIGHT & SONS, General Agents Philadelphia.

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FTHS

FINANCE AND TRADE.

TUESDAY EVENING, February 16, 1875.

There can be little doubt but that the weather has some influence upon business, and the long continued coldness keeps every one indoors that is not compelled to be abroad. Thus the retail trade has been retarded and the counter business of the banks correspondingly reduced. The discount market is quiet, almost nothing at all doing. Some of the smaller banks, whose business comes from retail tradesmen and small jobbers, report their money in active use and demands made on them greater than they can meet. In the older banks, whose business comes from the manufacturers, there is a surplus of money and transactions are limited.

—Banks, bankers and business men generally will be glad to hear that the action of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company has been followed by the Western Union, and that rates have been reduced wherever those lines come in competition. We can only express the wish that the reduced rates may be so arranged as to benefit Pittsburgh. An active banker has said that when the Pacific and Atlantic company was in operation, and the rates were twenty-five cents per ten words to New York, that his telegraphic bill was twice as much as when the rate was raised to fifty cents for ten words to New York, showing that cheap telegraphy would obtain a reasonable time after mailing notification, to take measures for investigating the condition of such bank, and to institute proceedings as in the manner already prescribed to be used in case of refusal to redeem. Notes in sums of less than $1,000 are also to be redeemed when presented to the Treasury by the holder in person or when forwarded with charges paid. Any amount of lawful money deposit at Washington in excess of the five per cent. is to be counted as a part of reserve. Any person or corporation for the deposit of United States bonds shall be charged transportation both ways. From and after the date hereof, no transfer shall be allowed unless the signatures, and the denomination under the signatures, of the parties assigning, be certified by the Comptroller to the bank issuing the same. Banks shall pay, during the month of January, the full amount of their taxes, with penalty of one per cent. a month for all delays. Receivers are required to pay dividends of ten per cent. on the first $1,000 collected and paid out, and for all money received and paid in excess of that amount, each receiver shall perform his duties as long as the Secretary of the Treasury may require, under penalty of forfeiture of one-half of his pay for refusal to so continue. Counsellors employed in any necessary proceedings in the interest of any national bank in the course of liquidation shall not receive more than $5,000, except on the written consent of every shareholder and creditor of the bank and the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, and in no case shall it receive over $10,000.

—It should be remembered that under the provision of the Holiday act of April 2, 1873, next Monday, February 22, will be a legal holiday, when the banks will be closed. All commercial paper maturing on the 20th, 21st and 22d, must be paid on Saturday, the 20th.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE, BANKERS & BROKERS, 7 NEW STREET, NEW YORK, February 15, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The general tone of our market to-day has been firm, although opening prices were firm, and in some cases strong. The Western stocks seem to be growing weaker by the day, unbolstered by legislation and the weakness of the bull party as compared with the great bear. The North Western is the only positive point, St. Paul, Rock Island and others symptomatic of weakness. Union Pacific opens at low figures, probably from the fact that the great bear in other stocks manipulates this in a different manner, and has other reasons for believing that Jay Gould has secured a majority interest in the stock, which may mean higher prices for it aside from the other market; but in our judgment means nothing but what has been hinted that gentleman may suggest. Toward the close the market strengthened, which was the effort of the bears. There are no particular features worth noting. Money remains easy at 7 per cent. TRASK & STONE.

—The following stocks were sold last evening, by A. McIlwaine, auctioneer, at his stock salesrooms, 106 Smithfield street:

Consolidated Gas Co	$ 40 00
Second Ward Bank	91 00
Bank of Pittsburgh	65 50

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Stadt Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

	10:00	11:30	12:00	1:30	2:30	3:00
February 16, 1875.	A.M.	A.M.	M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Gold	114¼	114¼	114¼	115	115¼	115¼
U.S. 6s, 1881, coupon	119¾	119¾	119¾	119¾	119¾	119¾
U.S. 5s, 1881	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾
U.S. 5s, 1881, Registered	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾
U.S. 5s, 1881, 10-40	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾
U.S. 6s, 1881, 10-40	114	114	114	114	114	114
U.S. 6s, 1881, 10-40, Registered	114	114	114	114	114	114
U.S. 6s, 1881, 10-40, Coupon	114	114	114	114	114	114
Currency 6s	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pacific 6s of '95	114	114	114	114	114	114
Central Pacific 1st	114	114	114	114	114	114
Central Pacific Land Grant	114	114	114	114	114	114
Central Pacific Bonds	114	114	114	114	114	114
Union Pacific 1st	114	114	114	114	114	114
Union Pacific Land Grant	114	114	114	114	114	114
Union Pacific Bonds	114	114	114	114	114	114
Union Pacific Sinking Fund	114	114	114	114	114	114
Union Pacific Income	114	114	114	114	114	114
Union Pacific Stock	114	114	114	114	114	114
Central Pacific Stock	114	114	114	114	114	114
Wells-Fargo Express	114	114	114	114	114	114
Adams Express	114	114	114	114	114	114
United States Express	114	114	114	114	114	114
Central Ohio	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh & Steubenville	114	114	114	114	114	114
Ohio & Mississippi	114	114	114	114	114	114
Ohio & Mississippi Certificates	114	114	114	114	114	114
Chicago & Alton	114	114	114	114	114	114
Chicago & Alton Preferred	114	114	114	114	114	114
Illinois Central	114	114	114	114	114	114
Illinois Central Scrip	114	114	114	114	114	114
Illinois Central Leased Lines	114	114	114	114	114	114
Michigan Southern	114	114	114	114	114	114
Michigan Southern Guaranteed	114	114	114	114	114	114
Michigan Southern Preferred	114	114	114	114	114	114
Michigan Southern Scrip	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland & Pittsburgh Guaranteed	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland & Pittsburgh Special	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland & Pittsburgh Sinking Fund	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland & Pittsburgh Scrip	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland & Toledo	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland & Toledo Scrip	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Scrip	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Guaranteed	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Special	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Sinking Fund	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Income	114	114	114	114	114	114
Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Stock	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Preferred	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Scrip	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Guaranteed	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Special	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Sinking Fund	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Income	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Stock	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Scrip	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Guaranteed	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Special	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Sinking Fund	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Income	114	114	114	114	114	114
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Stock	114	114	114	114	114	114

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central sales	57	
Pennsylvania Central Scrip	57	
Reading	37½	
United Co's of N. Jersey	131	
Old Creek, Allegheny	60	
Lehigh Valley	62¾	63¼
Allegheny Valley	30	
Central Transportation	44	
Empire Transportation		55
Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago		
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis mortgage bonds		

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, TUESDAY, February 16, 1875.

There was not much that was new in the various branches of trade to-day, although one or two important changes in quotations took place. Among others, the sharp advance in standard sugars, which went off about ½c. In the grain market, corn seems to be a shade firmer, although still very much depressed, while oats are in better demand, and are sold at 90@95c for prime peachblows from store.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	1,560	Cheese, lbs	24
Corn, sks	850	Wheat, sks	131
Barley, sks	207	Rye, sks	5
Oats, sks	1,561	Butter, pkgs	34
Bacon, pcs	2,500	Bacon, lbs	10
Hay, bales	491		

The following quotations are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—There was a moderately active market to-day, and transactions at the Chamber of Commerce were large, although opening prices in dealing were in corn and oats. We quote choice Kentucky white wheat at $1 20@1 25; per bushel; prime Michigan white, $1 15@1 20; Ohio and Illinois do $1 20@1 25; amber do $1 is $1 10@1 15; Ohio and Pennsylvania red wheat, $1 10 @1 17. Corn was firmer and somewhat active at the following quotations: Shelled 73@74c; per bushel for high-mixed and yellow; ear mixed 72@73c; car stronger at 74@75c for prime yellow; 72c for mixed and white. In oats the markets is in little better supply at 60@c per bushel for prime Western white; 59@60c for Ohio and Pennsylvania do; 58@59c for mixed. Rye was steady at about $1 05@1 12. Barley was steadily unchanged. We noted the following sales:

2 cars shelled corn, low-mixed.....73c
2 cars white oats, prime.....60c

FLOUR—The market is dull. The following are the wholesale prices of to-day: Superfine, $4 75@5 00; white wheat flour $7 29 @ bbl; No. 1 amber wheat flour $6 50@7 00; white wheat flour $6 25@6 50. In sacks 30c off @ bbl. The following prices of the leading dealers are as follows: Graham brands of white winter wheat flour, $6 00@6 25; Wisconsin $5 75; Minnesota $5 75@6 00; red winter wheat flour $5 75@6 00; rye flour $5 25; Graham flour $5 75; self-rising flour, in 6 lb packages, $6 25 @ dozen packages; cornmeal, old do $3 75; new $3 00@3 50; oatmeal $7 75@8 00.

HAY—There is a liberal supply, and active transactions at the following: Change of car timothy at $22 00; 1 do at $20 00; and 1 do at $21 00; car mixed at $21 00. We quote prime timothy, on track, at $20 00@22 00 @ ton; No. 2 do $18 00@19 00; inferior $15 00@17 00; baled hay from store is quoted at $23 00@24 00. Loose hay is selling at $25 00@ 27 00 @ ton; $23@24 00 for No. 2; straw is quoted at $15 00@16 00 @ ton.

MILL FEED—Bran is strong at $1 20@1 25 @ cwt; shorts, $1 25@1 35 @ cwt; middlings, $1 45@ 1 55 @ cwt; chopped feed $1 50@1 55 @ cwt; oilmeal $3 00@3 10 @ cwt. At the Chamber of Commerce to-day, a car of middlings sold, to arrive, at $1 45 per cwt.

GROCERIES.

In groceries to-day standard sugars were reduced ½c. Others are unchanged. We quote as follows:

Green Coffees.		Sugars.	
Fancy Rio	24½c	Standard A	10½c
Choice Rio	22 c	Standard extra C	10¼c
Prime Rio	22 c	Standard extra C	10 c
Good Rio	20 c	Franklin extra C	9¼c
Java	30 c	Americus extra C	9¼c
		New Orleans	8@9½c
Roasted Coffees.		Cut loaf	11½c
Fancy Rio	28 c	Crushed	11 c
Rio, in bulk	27½c	Powdered	11 c
Java, in papers	41 c	Granulated	10½c
Java, in bulk	40½c		
Teas.		Molasses.	¶ gal.
Young Hyson	60@1 00	Strictly ch'e N. O.	72c
Gunpowder	50c@1 25	Prime	70c
Imperial	50c@1 00	Mixed	60c
Japan	50c@1 00	Syrups.	
Oolong	75c@ 85	Ex. white drips	75c
Fancy	1 00	Sugar drips	60c
Souchong	75c@ 85	Lower grades	45@50c
Rice.		Rotisin.	¶ box.
Choice Carolina	8@9c	Layers, ¾ lbs	$2 25
Patna	7½@8 c	Valentias, ¾ lb	12 c
Rangoon	7½@8 c	Currants, ¾ lb	12½c
Spices.		Prunes	12½@ c
Cloves	50 c	Starch.	¶ lb.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, February 17, 1875.

The strong feeling noted in our last report continues, and an advance has been made of about 20c, carrying the price for United at $1 05@1 05, with other deliveries advanced in proportion. Refined is also firmer, and the decline noted yesterday was fully recovered.

CRUDE.

We quote United at wells at $1 50@1 55; Union do $1 30; immediate shipment $1 20. The market was firm with very few offerings. Sales, both regular and special, were large, being 78,000 barrels at Parkers, and 4,000 barrels at other points in the oil regions.

REFINED.

The market for refined was somewhat firmer and a shade higher in sympathy with the crude market. We quote standard white on the cars at 11½@11¾c.

New York—Refined is quoted at 14½@15c.

Philadelphia—Spot refined rules at 14¼.

OIL BARRELS

are weak and dull at $1 25 for city; $1 15 for country.

(By Western Union Telegraph.)

TITUSVILLE, February 16.—The *Herald* says: The crude petroleum market underwent a reaction, and a better and more confident feeling seemed to prevail than has been the case for some time past. The inquiries for all deliveries, particularly United, were considerably in excess of the offerings, and the price, as a necessary consequence, appreciated in proportion. The entire crude markets have undergone an advance since Saturday of about 20c, and the refined markets have sympathized and are also higher. Sales:

500 bbls, upper road, spot	$1 57½
500 bbls, upper road, spot	1 58
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot	1 62½
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot	1 60
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot	1 62½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 27
2,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 28½
5,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 30
1,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 30
2,500 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 32½
6,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 32½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 32½
3,500 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 32½
6,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 42½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 42½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 42½
10,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 47½
1,500 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 47½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, United, at wells	1 47½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, Union at wells	1 30
2,500 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells	1 35
1,000 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells	1 40
1,500 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells	1 45
1,000 bbls, Parker's, Atlantic and Pacific Mail	1 40
2,000 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells	1 40½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 45
2,000 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 47½
2,500 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 48½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 48½
3,000 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 52½
1,500 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 54½
1,000 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 54½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 57½
1,000 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment	1 60
5,500 bbls, Parker's, immediate shipment

THE
Pittsburgh Daily Commercial,
GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE.
Now is the Time to Subscribe.

The conductors of the COMMERCIAL have for some time contemplated a Reduction in the Price of the Paper to Subscribers, where delivered by Carriers or Agents, and now announce that from and after MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1875, the terms to such will be
Fifteen Cents Per Week.
Leave your orders for the Carrier at the Counting Room of this office.

CITY MATTERS.

FOR one dollar per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed daily to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 24, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., February 16, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	WIND. Force.	Weath.
7 A.M.	30.49	—2	83	Calm	Calm	Foggy.
2 P.M.	29.56	17	50	S.W.	Fresh	Fair.
9 P.M.	30.31	10	79	Calm	Calm	Cloudy.

Mean barometer....30.37 Highest thermom... 18
Mean thermom..... 9 Lowest thermom.. 7

Fare Reduced

East via the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore "Short Line." See advertisement.

Second Ward Alderman.

We are pleased to report that Mr. Edward C. Milliken was elected, yesterday, Alderman of the Second ward by a handsome majority. Mr. Milliken is an active Republican, was a soldier in the late civil war, and is in every way capable of performing the duties for which he has been chosen. He will make a reliable and efficient magistrate.

A Fall Over a Wall.

A serious accident occurred yesterday morning at Duncan & Son's glass works, South Side. James Vaugh, an employee, was taking a bale of straw from a pile in the yards of the works, when he lost his footing and was precipitated over a wall eight feet high, falling upon his head and sustaining severe concussion of the brain. Dr. Thomas, who attended the injured man, pronounced his injuries of a serious character.

Fare Reduced

East via the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore "Short Line." See advertisement.

Unsigned Warrants.

Mayor McCarthy has refused to sign two warrants—one for $500, for Jacob H. Walters, and one for $781, for C. Howard & Co., both approved by the Water Committee—on the ground that the parties in whose favor the warrants have been ordered, are both overpaid. The Mayor states that he will not sign these warrants unless compelled to do so by the courts. This will open a very fruitful source of investigation, including the entire management of the water works business. Here is an indication of more trouble ahead.

Allegheny Fire Plugs.

Superintendent Richmond, of the Allegheny Water Works, states that men are now employed to keep the fire plugs thawed, and that no further trouble from that source need be apprehended. The men let the water run a few minutes at a time from the plug during the day, and during the night the firemen see that each plug is thawed out by the application of hot water from engine houses. Yesterday Chief Crow attended to steaming out the ice from the Craig street main. The frost has penetrated to the depth of four feet.

Plymouth Congregational Church.

The Plymouth Congregational church, corner of Manhattan and Franklin streets, Allegheny, has arranged a course of six lectures, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the church building fund. The first lecture of the series will be given tomorrow (Thursday) evening, by the Hon. John M. Kirkpatrick, on the subject, "The Lessons of Life." As a thinker and speaker, Judge Kirkpatrick ranks among the best of our home orators, and the lecture will amply repay a hearing. We bespeak for him a large audience. The season tickets are one dollar; single admission twenty-five cents.

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Gone South.

Doctor L. H. Harris, of the well known drug firm of Harris & Ewing, of this city, has recently left on a tour to the South. His wife, a lady of much culture and beauty, accompanied the doctor. They spent a few days at Washington City, and took in the Southern exposition at Louisville, Florida, where they are at present sojourning. After visiting other portions of the "Sunny South," they will likely return home in March, by way of Cuba. The doctor added new laurels, by his praiseworthy efforts in securing help for the Ladies' Poor Society of this city some weeks ago, and hosts of friends wish him and his wife a delightful visit and safe return.

Watches and Jewelry Stolen.

A boy named Charles Anderson, who was employed a short time ago at the residence of Mr. W. W. McMillin, Sewickley, disappeared Monday afternoon, taking with him three gold watches and a quantity of jewelry and silver coin, valued in all at about $700. The stolen watches are described as follows: The first is a large heavy gold hunting case watch, an inscription [illegible] inside, reading, "Presented to Major W. S. Woods." Another watch is a ladies' Geneva time-piece, in gold and blue enamel, and the last is an old-fashioned gold open-faced English make. Of the gold rings taken, one contained a "solitaire" diamond, plain circlet, and another ring has a closed setting, from which the diamond, which was also a "solitaire," was stolen some time since. The detectives have the matter in hand.

"Johnny Clemm" Done up in Bronze.

Bartlett's sketch, in bronze, of Johnny Clemm, the famous "drummer boy of Chickamauga," on exhibition at Tiffany's in New York, is thus described: "The little drummer who said 'Carry me and I'll drum it through' is hoisted on the left shoulder of a stalwart soldier, his left leg which is wounded, hangs loosely behind, and the right ankle is firmly grasped by his bearer, who rushes forward with the burden. The little figure is further supported by the right hand of the soldier, who reaches up over his head and holds the boy by a vigorous grasp on his belt. The drummer is bareheaded, his hair flies in the breeze, he wears no jacket, and his nervous arms are half bare. His face is sharply turned towards his followers, to whom he yells—not shouts—flourishing his drumsticks the while."

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Pittsburgh Mortuary Report.

Dr. W. Snively, physician of the Board of Health, makes the following report for the week ending February 13, 1875:

Accident by crushing, 1; asthma, apoplexy, 1; asophegitis, 1; congestion of brain, 1; concussion of brain, 1; bronchitis, 1; capillary, bronchitis, 4; Bright's disease, acute, 1; cancer of liver, 1; consumption, 8; convulsions, 2; croup, 1; diphtheritis, 1; detention, morbid, 1; diarrhea, 4; dropsy, 1; enteritis, 1; fever, typhoid, 1; scarlet, 1; gangrene, senilis, 1; hepatitis, 1; hematemesis, 1; imperforate rectum, 1; congestion of lungs, 2; leucheuma, 1; malformation of pharynx, 1; pneumonitis, 5; syphilis, congenital, 1; unknown, 1; uremia, 1. Total, 52.

Of these, 48 were white and 4 colored. Married, 21; single, 30; widows, 1. Nativity—Pittsburgh, 25; other parts of United States, 12; England, 2; Germany, 5; Ireland, 5; Wales, 2; Switzerland, 1. Age—Under 1 year, 12; from 1 to 2 years, 4; 2 to 5 years, 7; 5 to 10 years, 1; 10 to 20 years, 5; 20 to 30 years, 2; 30 to 40 years, 6; 40 to 50 years, 4; 50 to 60 years, 4; 60 to 70 years, 3; 70 to 80 years, 4. Total, 52.

Visit of an Old Pittsburgher.

Wm. D. Patterson, Esq., so long and favorably known as Superintendent of our City Farm, now the capable Superintendent of the Workhouse and House of Correction at Cleveland, Ohio, has been on a visit to this city, much to the gratification of his old friends and neighbors. Mr. Patterson, by his superb management of the Cleveland Workhouse and House of Correction, has won high encomiums of praise. Under his careful management, the institution manufactures various articles, the sales of which have grown in three years from $7,000 per annum, to $52,000 last year, and now it is almost self-supporting, or at least, the burden is very light upon the taxpayers. Pittsburghers visiting Cleveland, Ohio, will do well to take the street cars and see the institution, located on Woodland avenue. Mr. Patterson's oldest son, Edgar, is chief clerk in the office, and his other son, William, is connected with a prominent banking house in that city, both of whom are well known to many in this city, and prospering in their new home.

What is Special Legislation?

LIGHT FROM THE SUPREME COURT.

Classification of Subjects for Taxation Legal.

Kitty Roup Case Virtually Decided.

Increase of City Indebtedness, Etc.

In Philadelphia, two bills in equity have been before the Supreme Court, to restrain the issuing of bonds to the amount of $2,000,000—$1,000,000 for gas and $1,000,000 for sewer purposes. The gas loan was expressly authorized by ordinance of the City Councils; in the case of the sewer loan the ordinance has passed only the Common Council. The ordinances referred to depend for their validity upon the act of 23d May, 1874, entitled "An act dividing the cities of this State into three classes," etc.

It is provided by the 11th section of said act that "That Councils of any city of the first-class, the debt of which now exceeds seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, shall be and they are hereby authorized to increase the said debt one per centum upon such valuation," etc.

The complainants allege as the grounds of their application that the act of Assembly above referred to is unconstitutional and void, because:

1. It creates an unconstitutional classification of the cities of the Commonwealth, and by indirection legislates specially for the city of Philadelphia.

2. It authorizes the increase of the city debt without submission to the popular vote.

3. The act was so altered, during the its passage through the House of Representatives, as to change its orginal purpose.

4. The object of the act is not clearly expressed in its title.

These four grounds of objection apply to both the bills.

As to the bill to which the Trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works are made defendants, there is another ground.

5. It authorizes the city to obtain money for, or loan its credit to a corporation, association, or institution.

It was alleged on behalf of the city that the plaintiffs had no standing in court to enable them to raise these questions, because:

1. As to the gas loan, the burden can never fall on the city, and

2. As to the sewer loan, it has only passed one branch of Councils, and may never pass the other, or it may be vetoed by the Mayor.

Judge Paxson rendered the unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court, in these cases, and we append important extracts therefrom, as shedding light upon the increase of city indebtedness, and the power of the Legislature to classify persons and things for taxation and other purposes.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

Judge Paxson says:

It is unnecessary to consider these objections at length. It is too late to question the right of a taxpayer, where money is to be raised by taxation, or expended from the treasury, to proceed in equity to test the validity of the law under which the proposed assessment or expenditure is to be made.

Having thus conceded the right of the complainant to file these bills, it remains to consider how far they have made out a case which entitles them to the equitable relief prayed for.

It is alleged that the act of 23d of May, 1874, offends against article III of section 7 of the Constitution. The material parts of said act are:—"The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law * * * regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs, or school districts. * * * Nor shall any law be passed granting powers or privileges where the granting of such powers or privileges shall have been provided for by a general law." * * *

Without entering at large upon the discussion of what is here meant by a "local or special law," it is sufficient to say that a statute which relates to persons or things of a class is special, and comes within the constitutional prohibition.

The necessity for classification is recognized in the Constitution itself. * * *

We are unable to see that it does not follow that because classification is permitted to the organic law, the Legislature may exercise the same power. But the power existed at the time of the adoption of the Constitution; it has been exercised by the Legislature from the foundation of the Government; it was incident to legislation, and its exercise was necessary for the promotion of the public welfare. The true question is not whether classification is not authorized by the terms of the Constitution, but whether it is expressly prohibited. In no part of that instrument can such prohibition be found.

TAXATION AND CLASSIFICATION.

For the purpose of taxation, real estate may be classified. Thus, timber lands, arable lands, mineral lands, urban and rural, may be divided into distinct classes and subjected to different rates. In like manner other subjects, trades, occupations and professions, may be classified. And not only things but persons may be so divided. The *genus homo* is a subject within the meaning of the Constitution. Will it be contended that as to this there can be no classification? No laws affecting the personal and property rights of minors as distinguished from adults? Or of females as distinguished from males? or, in the case of the latter, no distinction between a *femme covertе* and a single woman? What becomes of all our legislation in regard to the rights of married women if there can be no classification, and where is the power to provide any future safeguards for their separate estates? The illustrations might be multiplied indefinitely were it necessary. But it is contended that even if the right to classify exists, the apportionment by the Legislature in this instance is in violation of the Constitution, for the reason that there is but one city in the State with a population exceeding 500,000; that to form a class containing but one city is in point of fact legislation for that one city, to the exclusion of all others, and constitutes the local and special legislation prohibited by the Constitution. This argument is plausible, but unsound. It is true the only city in the State at the present time containing a population of 500,000 is the city of Philadelphia. It is also true that the city of Pittsburgh is rapidly approaching that number, if it has not already reached it by recent enlargements of its territory.

Legislation is intended not only to meet the wants of the present, but to provide for the future. If it deals not only with the present in theory at least, anticipates the needs of a State healthy with a vigorous development. It is intended to be permanent. At no distant day Pittsburgh will probably become a city of the first-class, and Scranton, and other of the rapidly growing interior towns, will take the place of the city of Pittsburgh as a city of the second class. In the meantime, is the classification as to cities of the first class bad because Philadelphia is the only one of the class? We think not. * * *

If the classification of cities is in violation of the Constitution, it follows, of necessity, that Philadelphia, as a city of the first class, must be denied the legislation necessary to its present prosperity and future development, or that the small inland cities must be burdened with legislation which is unsuited to their condition.

For if the Constitution means what the complainants aver that it does, Philadelphia can have no legislation that is not common to all other cities of the State. And for this there is absolutely no remedy but a change in the organic law itself.

We do not think that the classification of cities, as contained in the act of 23d of May, 1874, offends against any constitutional provision.

This construction does not open the door to special legislation. It permits legislation for classes. Were an illustration, it could not be held to authorize the Legislature to open or vacate a particular street in a city of either of the classes named in the act referred to.

INCREASE OF CITY INDEBTEDNESS.

If the complainants were right in their position in regard to the classification of cities, and that the act classifying cities is a special act, applicable to Philadelphia alone, it would not help them. The Legislature is authorized by the express terms of the Constitution to empower by special act a city to increase its debt. The language of that instrument is, "but *any* city, the debt of which now exceeds 7 per centum, may be authorized by law to increase the same." It was entirely competent for the Legislature to have passed an act authorizing the city of Philadelphia, by name, to increase its debt. * * * * *

The end sought to be attained was clearly a limitation upon the debt of municipalities, and seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein was fixed as the maximum. The fact was, however, known to the convention that at the time the debt of the city of Philadelphia, and, perhaps, some other municipalities, exceeded seven per centum. In such instances an arbitrary provision, that there should be no further increase of the debt, might have worked great injury by the stoppage of public works already commenced and essential to the public convenience and welfare. It was therefore provided that as to such municipalities the debt might be increased to three per centum. The main controversy, however, was as to the manner in which such increase should be accomplished. Here again the distinction is preserved between municipalities whose debt is under seven per centum and those in which it exceeds seven per centum. In the former the municipal authorities may increase the debt from time to time until two per centum has been added, provided the original debt, with the increase, does not exceed seven per centum. After the two per centum has been added there can be no further increase without the vote of the people. But when a city, whose debt at the time of the adoption of the Constitution already exceeds seven per centum, seeks to increase its debt, it can only do so with the consent of the law-making power of the State. The Constitution has interposed the Legislature between such municipality and any further increase of its debt.

We regard this as the true and reasonable construction of the section of the Constitution referred to. It does no violence to any known rule of interpretation, and carries out the main object of the section. Ingenious arguments may be based upon the relation of an article or proposition to the language employed, but a broader view, giving to the words their ordinary signification, and having regard to the mischief sought to be remedied, leaves us in no doubt as to the correctness of our conclusions.

The injunctions are refused.

REMARKS.

The above decision, indorsed as it is by the entire Court, removes several grave difficulties which have been encountered in our own city. It virtually decides the Kitty Roup case, so far as the right to classify property for taxation is concerned. This will be gratifying to the owners of property in the East End, as well as to those in the hill wards on the South Side. The Court says in so many words, that "urban and rural lands may be divided into distinct classes, and subjected to different rates," and "in like manner, trades, occupations and professions may be classified." The Constitution, in other words, "permits legislation for class, but not for persons or things of a class." The existing law, classifying property into "city and "rural," and providing for a two-thirds rate of taxation upon the latter class, is therefore constitutional; and a further classification, as contemplated in the bill now before Councils, making agricultural lands a separate class, at a still lower rate, would be legal. The constitutional difficulty having been removed, Councils should now proceed, without delay, in framing a just and equitable tax law, in the interests of second class, and secure its passage at the present session of the Legislature. The existing law sustains the East End very well; but it is unjust, in that it discriminates unfairly against precisely the same classes of property on the South Side and in the old city limits.

Another point seems squarely decided by the Supreme Court in the case above cited. Pittsburgh would undoubtedly have the right to increase her indebtedness without a vote of the people providing the seven per centum limit was reached at the date of the adoption of the constitution—and it certainly was if the old assessment is to be taken as a basis. In Philadelphia, Councils can increase the indebtedness by ordinance. In Pittsburgh (or cities of the second class) an act of Assembly is necessary. But the application that a law classifying property for taxation, or authorizing an increase of indebtedness, would be unconstitutional by reason of its not being a general law, no longer exists, since the Court holds that laws for a class are not special, but general laws. So far as an increase of our city debt is concerned, we have the undisputed, but the propriety or necessity are questions to be determined by the citizens and their representatives in Councils.

THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

The Apprehended Veto—The Status Unchanged—Communication from Controller Snodgrass to the Mayor.

There is no material change in the status of the appropriation ordinance. The Mayor still adheres to his determination to veto the ordinance unless it is changed to meet the legal defects which he has pointed out. He holds that there must be an absolute appropriation, each year, of the amount required to pay interest on the water bonds; and that it is not a compliance with the law to appropriate less than the amount required, and attempt to make up out of moneys in the treasury, or supposed to be in the treasury, the deficiency of that fund. If there was such a balance, it could easily be placed among the "estimated receipts," and thus the account could be kept square, without increasing the taxation.

The controller admits that the $52,000, required to make up the interest fund, is not actually in the treasury, but is credited to that fund, and will be made up out of uncollected taxes. He thinks the Mayor is technically correct in his view of the law, but holds that the responsibility for unlawful responsibility in vetoing the appropriation ordinance, as it is extremely doubtful, under the existing sectional feeling among certain members, whether it could be passed at all over the veto. It is even hinted that efforts are now being made to prevent the Common Council from getting a quorum, at its meeting on Monday next, to consider the ordinance; but it is hoped that a course so unwise will not be countenanced by any Councilman. If the ordinance passes that body, on Monday, there will be but five days left, in which to act upon the veto. The ordinance must become a law on or before Saturday the 27th, or there will be no appropriations for this year.

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Hon. W. C. McCarthy, Mayor:

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Balance in appropriation No. 4, Fire Department, $5,963 41.

Appropriated and placed in water loan sinking fund, $80,000; coupon bond No. 35 for $1,000, and registered bond No. 7 for $100 retired, leaving balance in fund of $79,144 55.

Appropriated and placed in special sinking fund, $7,000; old municipal bonds, 1869, Nos. 123 and 188, for $2,000 retired. Balance in fund, $21,022 50.

Appropriated and placed in Lawrenceville sinking fund, $3,350; excess taxes collected over amount appropriated and interest paid, including amount received from Treasurer on borough grading and paving assessments, $6,774 74, leaving a balance in fund of $4,775 11.

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Penn avenue interest bonds sold during the year, six per cent. gold, four years, $250,000; seven per cent. currency, two years, $100,000; total, $350,000.

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During the year 1874, Municipal consolidated bonds were sold amounting to $210,000, and placed to the credit of the fund to retire matured and maturing indebtedness of South Side borough and certain parts of property owned by said boroughs at the time of consolidation, and $13,512 69, undrawn balances transferred from various appropriations, making the total to the city of Pittsburgh as a city of the second class. In the meantime, is the classification as to cities of the first class bad because Philadelphia is the only one of the class? We think not. * * *

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E. M. SNODGRASS, Controller.

The Mayor has also addressed an official letter to the City Treasurer, on the same subject, to which he has not yet received a reply.

—Mayor McCarthy also calls attention to the fact that by the enactment of the Controller there is a balance, on paper, in the treasury of some $509,000, and the Chief Magistrate makes the inquiry, can this amount be made up from uncollected taxes?

Fare Reduced

East via the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore "Short Line." See advertisement.

SKILFUL SURGICAL OPERATION.

Dr. Sadler Removes a Cataract from the Eye of a Blind and Deaf and Dumb Man.

A young man, who has been deaf and dumb for years, and had lately become blind from cataract in both eyes, was operated upon, yesterday, by Dr. O. W. Sadler, the oculist, at the house of a gentleman residing on Centre avenue. The case is a very singular one, and we append a history of it. The name of the patient is William McCafferty, son of W. McCafferty, of Pattonsburg, Pa., formerly owner of the "McCafferty farm," in Butler county, Pa.

While an infant he had a disease in the ears, which resulted in a discharge from them which has brought it that he was about ten years old; and which entirely destroyed his hearing before he learned to talk. Being deaf and dumb, he was sent to the school for such in Columbus, Ohio, where he obtained a good education, though troubled some with "weak eyes." After leaving school, his eyes became worse, and he was brought to this city, four years ago, for relief. Physicians who examined him came to the conclusion that the optic nerve was affected beyond recovery, and he was recommended to go home and do nothing, as he would go blind. Since that time a cataract has developed in each eye, and as the sight failed gradually as the cataracts became more noticeable, (the perception of light only remaining), it was hoped that some sight might be restored to him.

Thursday forenoon was fixed upon for the operation that is to form a class containing but one city is in point of fact legislation for that one city, to the exclusion of all others, and constitutes the local and special legislation prohibited by the Constitution. This argument is plausible, but unsound. It is true the only city in the State at the present time containing a population of 500,000 is the city of Philadelphia. It is also true that the city of Pittsburgh is rapidly approaching that number, if it has not already reached it by recent enlargements of its territory.

Legislation is intended not only to meet the wants of the present, but to provide for the future. If it deals not only with the present in theory at least, anticipates the needs of a State healthy with a vigorous development. It is intended to be permanent. At no distant day Pittsburgh will probably become a city of the first-class, and Scranton, and other of the rapidly growing interior towns, will take the place of the city of Pittsburgh as a city of the second class. In the meantime, is the classification as to cities of the first class bad because Philadelphia is the only one of the class? We think not. * * *

If the classification of cities is in violation of the Constitution, it follows, of necessity, that Philadelphia, as a city of the first class, must be denied the legislation necessary to its present prosperity and future development, or that the small inland cities must be burdened with legislation which is unsuited to their condition.

For if the Constitution means what the complainants aver that it does, Philadelphia can have no legislation that is not common to all other cities of the State. And for this there is absolutely no remedy but a change in the organic law itself.

We do not think that the classification of cities, as contained in the act of 23d of May, 1874, offends against any constitutional provision.

This construction does not open the door to special legislation. It permits legislation for classes. As an illustration, it could not be held to authorize the Legislature to open or vacate a particular street in a city of either of the classes named in the act referred to.

INCREASE OF CITY INDEBTEDNESS.

If the complainants were right in their position in regard to the classification of cities, and that the act classifying cities is a special act, applicable to Philadelphia alone, it would not help them. The Legislature is authorized by the express terms of the Constitution to empower by special act a city to increase its debt. The language of that instrument is, "but *any* city, the debt of which now exceeds 7 per centum, may be authorized by law to increase the same." It was entirely competent for the Legislature to have passed an act authorizing the city of Philadelphia, by name, to increase its debt. * * * * *

The end sought to be attained was clearly a limitation upon the debt of municipalities, and seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein was fixed as the maximum. The fact was, however, known to the convention that at the time the debt of the city of Philadelphia, and, perhaps, some other municipalities, exceeded seven per centum. In such instances an arbitrary provision, that there should be no further increase of the debt, might have worked great injury by the stoppage of public works already commenced and essential to the public convenience and welfare. It was therefore provided that as to such municipalities the debt might be increased to three per centum. The main controversy, however, was as to the manner in which such increase should be accomplished. Here again the distinction is preserved between municipalities whose debt is under seven per centum and those in which it exceeds seven per centum. In the former the municipal authorities may increase the debt from time to time until two per centum has been added, provided the original debt, with the increase, does not exceed seven per centum. After the two per centum has been added there can be no further increase without the vote of the people. But when a city, whose debt at the time of the adoption of the Constitution already exceeds seven per centum, seeks to increase its debt, it can only do so with the consent of the law-making power of the State. The Constitution has interposed the Legislature between such municipality and any further increase of its debt.

We regard this as the true and reasonable construction of the section of the Constitution referred to. It does no violence to any known rule of interpretation, and carries out the main object of the section. Ingenious arguments may be based upon the relation of an article or proposition to the language employed, but a broader view, giving to the words their ordinary signification, and having regard to the mischief sought to be remedied, leaves us in no doubt as to the correctness of our conclusions.

The injunctions are refused.

REMARKS.

The above decision, indorsed as it is by the entire Court, removes several grave difficulties which have been encountered in our own city. It virtually decides the Kitty Roup case, so far as the right to classify property for taxation is concerned. This will be gratifying to the owners of property in the East End, as well as to those in the hill wards on the South Side. The Court says in so many words, that "urban and rural lands may be divided into distinct classes, and subjected to different rates," and "in like manner, trades, occupations and professions may be classified." The Constitution, in other words, "permits legislation for class, but not for persons or things of a class." The existing law, classifying property into "city and "rural," and providing for a two-thirds rate of taxation upon the latter class, is therefore constitutional; and a further classification, as contemplated in the bill now before Councils, making agricultural lands a separate class, at a still lower rate, would be legal. The constitutional difficulty having been removed, Councils should now proceed, without delay, in framing a just and equitable tax law, in the interests of second class, and secure its passage at the present session of the Legislature. The existing law sustains the East End very well; but it is unjust, in that it discriminates unfairly against precisely the same classes of property on the South Side and in the old city limits.

Another point seems squarely decided by the Supreme Court in the case above cited. Pittsburgh would undoubtedly have the right to increase her indebtedness without a vote of the people providing the seven per centum limit was reached at the date of the adoption of the constitution—and it certainly was if the old assessment is to be taken as a basis. In Philadelphia, Councils can increase the indebtedness by ordinance. In Pittsburgh (or cities of the second class) an act of Assembly is necessary. But the application that a law classifying property for taxation, or authorizing an increase of indebtedness, would be unconstitutional by reason of its not being a general law, no longer exists, since the Court holds that laws for a class are not special, but general laws. So far as an increase of our city debt is concerned, we have the undisputed, but the propriety or necessity are questions to be determined by the citizens and their representatives in Councils.

THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

The Apprehended Veto—The Status Unchanged—Communication from Controller Snodgrass to the Mayor.

There is no material change in the status of the appropriation ordinance. The Mayor still adheres to his determination to veto the ordinance unless it is changed to meet the legal defects which he has pointed out. He holds that there must be an absolute appropriation, each year, of the amount required to pay interest on the water bonds; and that it is not a compliance with the law to appropriate less than the amount required, and attempt to make up out of moneys in the treasury, or supposed to be in the treasury, the deficiency of that fund. If there was such a balance, it could easily be placed among the "estimated receipts," and thus the account could be kept square, without increasing the taxation.

The controller admits that the $52,000, required to make up the interest fund, is not actually in the treasury, but is credited to that fund, and will be made up out of uncollected taxes. He thinks the Mayor is technically correct in his view of the law, but holds that the responsibility for unlawful responsibility in vetoing the appropriation ordinance, as it is extremely doubtful, under the existing sectional feeling among certain members, whether it could be passed at all over the veto. It is even hinted that efforts are now being made to prevent the Common Council from getting a quorum, at its meeting on Monday next, to consider the ordinance; but it is hoped that a course so unwise will not be countenanced by any Councilman. If the ordinance passes that body, on Monday, there will be but five days left, in which to act upon the veto. The ordinance must become a law on or before Saturday the 27th, or there will be no appropriations for this year.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CONTROLLER.

Controller Snodgrass, in response to a communication from the Mayor, yesterday transmitted the following:

PITTSBURGH, February 16, 1875.

Hon. W. C. McCarthy, Mayor:

SIR: In compliance with your communication of the 13th, I have the honor to transmit to you the following statement as compiled from the books of this office:

The balance in the city Treasury on January 31st, 1875, amounts to $32,712 14.

Balance of appropriations No. 1, interest, $93,484 56.

Balance in appropriation No. 4, Fire Department, $5,963 41.

Appropriated and placed in water loan sinking fund, $80,000; coupon bond No. 35 for $1,000, and registered bond No. 7 for $100 retired, leaving balance in fund of $79,144 55.

Appropriated and placed in special sinking fund, $7,000; old municipal bonds, 1869, Nos. 123 and 188, for $2,000 retired. Balance in fund, $21,022 50.

Appropriated and placed in Lawrenceville sinking fund, $3,350; excess taxes collected over amount appropriated and interest paid, including amount received from Treasurer on borough grading and paving assessments, $6,774 74, leaving a balance in fund of $4,775 11.

Appropriated and placed to the credit of the Fire Department Loan, interest and sinking fund, $24,000; interest paid, 14,000. Balance in fund $10,000.

Deficiency Water Loan